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INSIDE



Drainage Cleanup

All is set for the series of cleanup activities on stormwater drainages to mitigate runoff pollution being discharged to the sea through Saipan's western shores.

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Copter Crash

A U.S. Black Hawk medivac helicopter crashed Thursday near this stronghold of the anti-American insurgency, killing all nine soldiers aboard, the U.S. military said.

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Dream Car

David Schneider's eyes lit up, his jaw dropped and his heart raced as he reached out to touch the brilliant, metallic silver exterior of a Porsche Carrera GT. "That's probably the closest I'm ever going to get to this car," Schneider said of the \$440,774, 605-horsepower sports car.

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'03 arrivals up vs 9-11 level

...but lower than 2002 arrival figures

By JOHN RAVELO
REPORTER

Over 455,000 tourists visited the CNMI in 2003, greater than 2001's total that plunged in the aftermath of the 9-11 terrorist attacks in the U.S.

The year's 455,405 total fell short, however, by less than 20,000 compared with 2002's 475,169, a decline that the Marianas Visitors Authority had attributed to global events—the SARS outbreak and the Iraq war—that impacted the world's travel sector. Had it not been for these events, the MVA said the CNMI's tourism industry could have



attained better recovery.

Supported by MVA's marketing campaign, CNMI tourism's performance improved in 2003 compared with 2001,

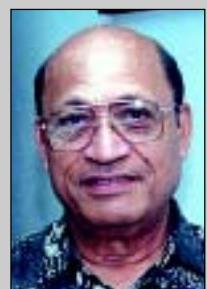
See '03 ARRIVALS on Page 8

'NMI should start preparing for influx of Chinese tourists'

By JOHN RAVELO
REPORTER

Marianas Visitors Authority chairman David Sablan said the CNMI has to gear up for the anticipated influx of Chinese tourists in the coming years, amid major aviation developments providing a better link between Saipan and China.

With the CNMI recognizing the potential of the Chinese market, Sablan said signages in Chinese should be installed once visitors from the Asian country increase. He said there would also be a need to hire tour guides who can speak both Chinese and English.



Sablan

See NMI on Page 8

New House sets sights on economic recovery



By JAYVEE VALLEJERA
ASSISTANT EDITOR

The Commonwealth will swear in a new Legislature today in a ceremony that would install new leaderships in both chambers, nowhere more dramatic than in the Senate, where a Tinian senator is expected to assume the presidency—a first in Commonwealth history.



In the lower chamber, the passing of the baton would be more of a turning of the tables, with the 13th Legislature's majority becoming the minority and an ascendant party—the Covenant—taking the helm of the House of Representatives.

Former House Speaker Benigno R. Fatial is expected to retake his former position from Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider and has already announced Saturday that he will be appointing Rep. Oscar M. Babauta floor leader of the 14th House—a post Babauta previously held during the 12th Legislature.

In an interview on the radio program "Island Issues" at KCNM 1080, Fatial also told program anchor Harry Blalock that he would be appointing representative-elect Timothy Villagomez as chairman of

See NEW on Page 8

Eating away the NMI, one pest at a time

By JOHN RAVELO
REPORTER

Agricultural production in the CNMI continues to be impacted by the high population of melon flies, even if traps installed to catch them collect an average

of 8,000 flies a week. Agricultural experts estimate the population of melon flies to remain in millions.

Isidoro T. Cabrera, agricultural consultant to the Northern Marianas College's Cooperative Research, Extension & Education Service, said the

situation could get worse because of the proliferation of the noxious ivy gourd, which acts as host to the pests.

See EATING on Page 8



Local

Repeat performance in parade to be evaluated

By JAYVEE VALLEJERA
ASSISTANT EDITOR

While stressing the obvious benefits gained from the CNMI's participation in the 2004 Tournament of Roses parade, the administration will have to evaluate whether the exercise is worth repeating next year, according to Gov. Juan N. Babauta.

In a news briefing held Thursday last week after arriving from Pasadena, California, where the parade was held, Babauta said the group that put together the project would meet again as a committee to look at the pros and cons of the venture and the availability of funding.

He did say that he is in favor of participating anew in the parade but this will depend on the group's findings and recommendations.

"One of the things that we want to do is to meet as a group and review the experiences that we went through and evaluate our financial situation whether this is something that we can afford to do again next year...So, we're going to meet again as a committee and look at our experience and see if we can find funding, if we can work on this in advance so that we can put together funds for next year. I would be very much in favor of doing it again," he said.

Babauta also cited the

CNMI's winning the "Most Beautiful Entry from Outside the Continental U.S." award as an additional incentive for private firms to contribute funds to the venture. The local government failed to secure private funds for this project this year.

"Having entered for the first time and having won during the first round is something that we're really proud of. As you could see on TV, competition was very stiff," said Babauta.

Galvin Guerrero, who chaired the committee that handled the project, said that, if the CNMI government decides to do it again, it will have more time to put the concept together and it will be able to generate more momentum to encourage support from the private sector.

"In fact, we were talking amongst ourselves as a committee that, if the CNMI government doesn't want to take this on, we might just take this on as a sort of non-profit entity and raise funds on our own to represent the Northern Mariana Islands. Even if we can't find the funds within the government, we're going to see what we can do about doing it solely on private sector support," Guerrero said.

In such a set-up, Babauta said it would be possible for the government to come in as a



Babauta

contributor and supporter, as opposed to being the main sponsor.

Unless sponsored by a major company, Rose Parade floats are not allowed to carry brand logos.

Ms. CNMI-Universe 2003 Kimberly Reyes, who was one of those aboard the float, described the experience as "incredible."

"It was actually freezing but going down Colorado Avenue on the float was just great. It was a privilege to be a part of it and seeing all those people touched my heart," she said.

Babauta pointed out the immense exposure given to the Commonwealth through its participation in the parade. "Just the benefit of having millions and millions of people watch the parade and see our float and talk about the Northern Marianas make it all worthwhile."

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Jonas Ogren echoed this, saying that a website dedicated to the parade gets about 200,000 hits a day. He said the CNMI delegation also got a chance to talk to a lot of people, relating one instance when a family, which had been wavering about coming to Saipan for the 60th anniversary of the Battle of Saipan, made a firm decision to make the visit after seeing the float and talking to them.

"People got more interested; the interest level is very high because of our participation," he said.

Emy Palican also thanked lawyer Joe Hill and Sam Joyner for allowing them to use their studio where the group recorded the music that was used on the float. "They practically gave us the studio for our use and we stayed up till morning recording the songs," she said.

The songs were traditional Carolinian dance music and Palican said this was the first time that these songs were ever recorded.

joeten motors
cmyk

SU issue generating bad publicity for Saipan

By JAYVEE VALLEJERA
ASSISTANT EDITOR

The plight of 87 Chinese students of the Saipan University who were allegedly deceived into enrolling in the university with assurances of getting jobs in the Commonwealth has been picked up by media outlets in different parts of the world, though not yet in the mainland United States.

At least two Chinese news-

papers have already contacted the Saipan Tribune for details about the incident. A search on Google News turned up at least eight stories relating to the scandal, not including articles that came out a week ago and those of the Chinese media.

Among the media outlets that have featured the Saipan University story are the Khaleej Times of the United Arab Emirates, Radio Australia, ABC Asia Pacific TV, and Guam's

Pacific Daily News.

When asked how the Babauta administration intends to counter this negative publicity, Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente said the most that the CNMI government can do is to show everyone that the administration considers the issue very important and is doing everything it can to resolve the matter as soon as possible.

He ruled out, however, following up this matter with the

different international media outlets that have carried the story.

"Of course, we had prepared a team because we think this is a critical issue. Not only do we want to show our ability to enforce our laws and make sure that all those individuals [students] are protected but we also wanted to relay the strong message that the CNMI has initiated the Pacific Gateway project, in which the students from China and other parts of Asia are going to be very critical to that project," he said.

The issue has already caught

the attention of Beijing, with officials from the People's Republic of China coming to the Commonwealth to find out what is going on.

Three officials from China's Ministry of Education were reportedly on-island last week to check on the issue. Up to now, however, there has been no confirmation about the presence of these officials, nor has any media outlet managed to talk to any of them. Gov. Juan N. Babauta had said he would be meeting with these officials but there has been no word if the

meeting has already happened.

The students have reportedly been granted temporary work authorizations by the Attorney General's Office, giving them 30 days to find a job on the island.

Saipan University began operating last September with a one-year provisional license.

Its founder, South Korean Soon Kyung Park, also known as "Dr. Park," has already been indicted. He is now in federal custody and is being held without bail. His assets and that of the school have reportedly been seized.

Aldan to appeal conviction in BoS case

By JOHN RAVELO
REPORTER

Even before his sentencing today, former Bank of Saipan president Tomas Aldan indicated that he would appeal his conviction and sentence on wire fraud charges, asking the federal court to release him during the appeal's pendency.

Aldan filed through his lawyer, Howard Trapp, a request Friday asking the court to release him pending appeal. Trapp said Aldan should be released because the latter does not pose a flight risk or a danger to the community's safety.

"The appeal is not for the purpose of delay and raises a fairly debatable question of law of a type which, if resolved in favor of Aldan, would result in an order for a new trial," Trapp said.

"The court has already released Aldan while he was awaiting imposition of sentence. Hence, the court already found by clear and convincing evidence that Aldan is not likely to flee or pose a danger to the safety of any other person or the community," he added.

Citing model criminal jury instructions for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, Trapp argued that Saipan's federal court committed prejudicial error in giving out instructions to the jury that convicted Aldan on a count each of conspiracy to commit wire fraud and wire fraud.

In June 20, 2003, the jury convicted Aldan on the charges together with businessman Bert Douglas Montgomery, who was meted out a 20-year prison term for the same charges and additional multiple wire fraud and money laundering counts.

U.S. prosecutor Patrick Smith had charged Aldan with conspiracy for his participation in the fraudulent release of BoS loans amounting to over \$5.8 million to Texas firm Sweven Systems LLC. The wire fraud charges against Aldan and Montgomery arose from transactions that defrauded a bank customer, Michelle Hom, of over \$209,980.

Trapp pointed out an alleged difference between the Ninth Circuit's model jury instruction and that of the trial court.

Quoting the trial court, Trapp said: "Michael Wilson has pleaded guilty to the crimes

arising out of the same events for which the same defendants are on trial. You may consider this evidence in determining this witnesses' [sic] believability."

"You may also consider [Michael] Wilson's guilty plea to the charge of conspiracy to defraud the BoS as proof of the existence of that conspiracy, but not as proof that any defendant on trial was a member of that conspiracy. You may not infer that any defendant is guilty of being a member of that conspiracy merely from the fact that Wilson pleaded guilty," he added.

Trapp stressed that the model jury instructions clearly mentioned that the testimony of a witness who had pleaded guilty is not evidence against the remaining defendants. The

testimony could only be considered in determining the witness' credibility, he said.

Smith had initially charged Wilson, Sweven's owner in connection with the wire fraud conspiracy, but the defendant later admitted to the charges against him.

Because of the alleged error in the federal court's jury instruction, Trapp said the jury convicted Aldan.

Trapp asked the court to state the reason on record should it decide to refuse Aldan's request for release during the pendency of the appeal, or should conditions be imposed for his client's release.

Only Aldan remains to be sentenced among his co-defendants in the trial related to the BoS debacle.

smile saipan

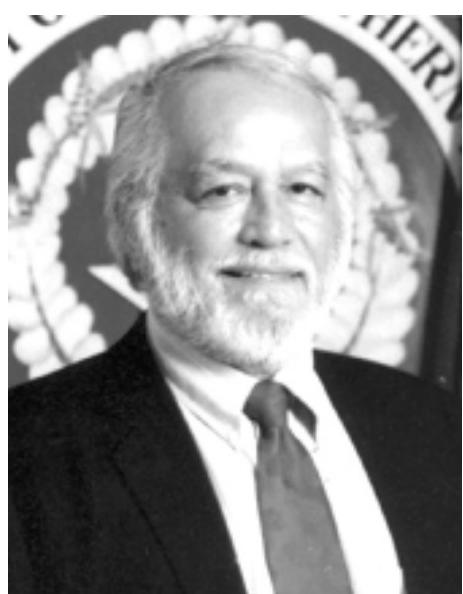
cars unlimited

Last hurrah for Stanley

By JAYVEE VALLEJERA
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Nobody said anything about Stanley Torres going gentle into that good night, least of all Stanley himself.

Taking to heart Dylan Thomas' exhortation to rage against the dying of the light, Stanley bid farewell during the House of Representatives' *sine die* last Thursday by slamming the Babauta administration, accusing it of



Torres

profligacy and refusal to face economic realities.

The Saipan Tribune tried to obtain comments from Gov. Juan N. Babauta yesterday but nobody answered his cell phone.

Torres vowed to continue raising issues that concern him in his new role as a private citizen, and expressed hope that the next legislature and the administration would work to solve the problems that continue to plague the Commonwealth.

"If government fails to work together to address long-standing problems, then we are in for a tough time ahead," he warned.

Among these problems is the cash crunch that Babauta recently mentioned. Torres said this will not go away as Babauta's budget exceeds government revenues and—short of a tax increase or

miraculous economic recovery—the cash crunch will persist.

"The governor claims millions of dollars in savings from the implementation of various austerity measures, but clearly, it is not enough. Today, needy folks still wait for tax rebates and refunds while travel continues unabated," he said.

He conceded that some of these trips might be important, "but many of the governor's trips just aren't necessary."

Torres cited Babauta's two trips to California to monitor the progress of construction of the Rose Bowl float, the trips to Hawaii to meet with military officials, and the delegation that Babauta brought with him to Washington, D.C. and Tokyo for investment conferences.

"I can conclude that the governor doesn't really comprehend the realities of government finances or doesn't care enough to stay home and take the steps necessary to lead in responding to them," he said.

Torres also took the governor to task over the salaries of some government employees that are above the salary cap provided by law, the government's unpaid obligations to the NMI Retirement Fund, its unpaid obligations to vendors, and the purchase of the La Fiesta Mall for the Northern Marianas College.

"Actions such as this [La Fiesta mall purchase] are exactly why we have a Constitutional requirement that such 'good ideas' be routed through the legislature for approval, but that common sense procedure has been thrown out the window in this case and many others," he added.

Torres urged the 14th Legislature to be vigilant and

resist what he described as "foolish policies wrapped up in fancy talk" and to fight bills that create even greater burdens for the average citizen.

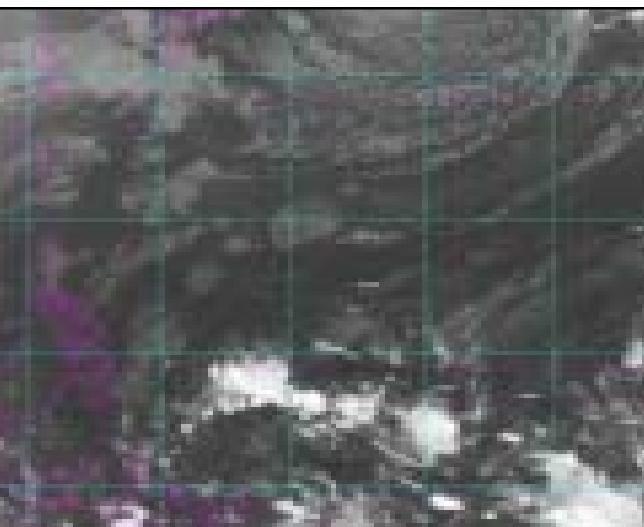
As for his defeat in the Nov. 2003 election, Torres described it as akin to "running up-hill with a refrigerator on my back."

"It's hard to win that election when the three most powerful people in government are telling people not to vote for me...telling friends and relatives in Precinct 3 to vote for all GOP

except Stanley Torres. People have come to me telling me what they were told," he said.

"I hope the GOP can rebound but there's an old saying that a house divided against itself cannot stand and the people at the top of the GOP administration have done a pretty good job of dividing the party...The Covenant and Democratic Parties should send him [Babauta] a message of appreciation for a job well done," Torres added.

WEATHER FORECAST



PICTURE TIME: 1:00 A.M., JANUARY 11, 2004
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-equatorial trough extends from 2n130e to 1n155e to eq174e. Trade-wind convergence north of the trough is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in the Republic of Palau and Yap State between 3n and 10n from 130e to 145e...from south of Chuuk to Kosrae between 1n and 7n from 153e to 164e...and in the Republic of the Marshall Islands between 3n and 10n from 168e to 180. A strong area of low pressure centered near 37n168e is creating widespread low level cloudiness and patches of light to moderate showers north of a line from 20n144e to 20n162e to 25n170e. Gale to storm force winds associated with the low are creating very rough to high seas south of the low.

	SAIPAN AND TINIAN
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Winds: Northeast at 15-20 mph.	

	GUAM AND ROTA
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Winds: Northeast at 15-20 mph.	

	PALAU
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Winds: Northeast 15-20 kt.	

	POHNPEI
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Winds: Northeast at 15-20 kt.	

	YAP AND ULITHI
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Winds: Northeast 15-20 kt.	

	KOSRAE
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Winds: Northeast at 15-20 kt.	

	CHUUK
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Winds: Northeast at 15-20 kt.	

	MAJURO
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Winds: Northeast at 15-20 kt.	

CITY	FORECAST	HIGH	LOW
Auckland	Sunny	77F (25C)	62F (17C)
Beijing	Snow	32F (0C)	14F (-10C)
Hong Kong	Rain	65F (18C)	53F (12C)
Honolulu	Showers	81F (27C)	65F (18C)
London, England	Rain	52F (11C)	37F (3C)
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	72F (22C)	51F (11C)
Manila	Partly Cloudy	86F (30C)	71F (22C)
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	67F (19C)	49F (9C)
Miami	Partly Cloudy	72F (22C)	56F (13C)
New York City	Cloudy	38F (3C)	30F (-1C)
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	38F (3C)	22F (-6C)
Paris	Rain	48F (9C)	33F (1C)
Pusan	Sunny	44F (7C)	32F (0C)
Rome	Sunny	50F (10C)	40F (4C)
Salem, Oregon	Cloudy	50F (10C)	38F (3C)
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	60F (16C)	50F (10C)
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	36F (2C)	24F (-4C)
Tokyo, Japan	Sunny	40F (4C)	30F (-1C)
Washington, DC	Cloudy	50F (10C)	32F (0C)

Volunteers gear up for major drainage cleanup

By JOHN RAVELO
REPORTER

All is set for the series of cleanup activities on stormwater drainages to mitigate runoff pollution being discharged to the sea through Saipan's western shores.

Non-profit Filipino group MOVER, which is taking on the cleanup project funded by a \$5,000-grant from oil giant Exxon/Mobil, has finalized the schedule to clean up 24 drainage sites on Beach Road from San Antonio to Garapan.

After assessing the drainages' condition, MOVER vice president Jun Agda disclosed that the project would kick off on Sunday, Jan. 18.

According to Agda, various teams would be dispatched simultaneously to cleanup up three drainage sites that day: one at the back of the Pacific Islands Club, another near the Hopwood High School and a third one between Aquarius Bldg. and Pacific Gardenia Hotel.

In all three drainages, Agda said he and MOVER's Ireneo Talastas observed bottles and soda cans scattered at the sites. On the first two drainages

were dried seaweeds and sand, he said.

Agda said MOVER would not only pick up trash that clog the drainages, but also broken glasses and debris that pose danger to beach goers. MOVER will also paint the concrete portion of the drainages.

The cleanup would last for seven consecutive Sundays regularly scheduled from 8:30am to 3pm, culminating the activity on Feb. 29.

Officers and members of the MOVER convened at the Kilili Pavilion yesterday to gear up for the project. The group has bought cleanup tools and equipment. The Environmental Interagency Cleanup Operation Team will supervise the conduct of the project.

Known as the "Drainage Cleanup/Restoration Along Saipan Western Shores," the project aims to minimize nonpoint source pollution flowing into the lagoon and to eradicate the uncontrolled growth of algae at the drainages' discharge points to the sea.

"The sea grass, corals and fish habitats will eventually either be displaced or die due to

EICOT restores beach-turned-dumpsite

By JOHN RAVELO
REPORTER

Volunteers supporting the Environmental Interagency Cleanup Operation Team dispatched themselves Saturday to the Makaka beach site in Garapan, which had reportedly turned into an illegal dumpsite.

"The area is now clean," said EICOT chairman Benny Pangelinan yesterday, adding that the team decided to conduct the emergency activity after he and

continuous sedimentation during heavy runoffs. The [growth] of

Coastal Resources Management Office director Joaquin D. Salas recently discovered the deteriorating condition of the Makaka beach area.

Worse, Pangelinan said, was the public's disregard for the no-littering sign put up by the Division of Environmental Quality at the site.

"I really don't understand why people don't bother to place trash where it's supposed to be," Pangelinan lamented, noting the existence of trash bins in the

algae at the mouth of all drainages will further deteriorate the

area. "They just come and throw their trash all over the place."

With the support of volunteers from the CRMO and non-profit organization MOVER, Pangelinan said the cleanup activity packed some 32 bags of trash weighing over 1,000-lbs. CRMO's Edson Limes and Clarence Igisaiar disposed the trash at the Lower Base Refuse Transfer Station, he added.

The trash collected from Makaka ranged from tires, aluminum cans to plastic, said

once pristine condition of the lagoon if mitigation measures

MOVER president Bonnie Sagana. "The site became a temporary dumpsite, so we cleaned it up."

Meanwhile, MOVER yesterday turned over some 18 garbage drums to the Division of Parks and Recreation. MOVER solicited the drums from Joeten Motors and converted them into trash bins. The trash bins will be placed on beach parks, including the Kilili Beach, 13 Fishermen and Garapan Beach, among others.

are not put in place," MOVER pointed out.

DEQ cites lessee for wastewater discharge

The Division of Environmental Quality has cited a land lessee due to the discharge of wastewater from the Chinatown property.

The DEQ released last week a copy of the notice of violation issued to Susan Deblois recently. It said that the agency's enforcement officers observed wastewater seeping out from the existing cesspool tank on the property. (John Ravelo)

"Also, wastewater is seeping out through the retaining wall into the adjacent property creating algae formation and foul odor," the citation stated.

The DEQ tasked Deblois to stop the wastewater discharge. It directed her to pump out wastewater from the property's two cesspool tanks and to divert the wastewater plumbing system to the public sewer system. (John Ravelo)

bank of hawaii

lottery

Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Moon dreams

Bill Clinton used to be mocked as the first baby boomer president. He was so undisciplined, the critics used to sneer: He thought life's normal constraints and rules did not apply to him, and he lacked the seriousness to impose priorities on his laundry lists of initiatives. President Bush has escaped this critique, at least for the most part: His frame is trim; his hair is trimmed; he seems the very embodiment of discipline. But now this escape must surely end. A human settlement on the moon? A manned flight to Mars? If Bush really does embrace those objectives next Wednesday, as his staff suggests he will, it will be fair to ask: Does he not believe that life's normal constraints and rules apply to him? Does he lack the seriousness to decide priorities?

Actually, Bush's contempt for the constraints of fiscal prudence has been evident for a long while. Some presidents before him—Clinton included—made hard choices among competing spending programs, and between spending and taxes. Bush spends money freely in all directions and cuts taxes as well. Now he wants to colonize the moon and eventually send Americans to Mars! The last time this idea was floated—by the president's father, in 1989—NASA put the likely cost at \$400 billion.

We are not against presidents who pursue big ideas, even expensive ones. We can think of several worthy candidates, as we have said before: Make sure that every child who qualifies for Head Start is actually covered by the program; extend housing assistance to the 5 million American families who qualify for it but nonetheless are excluded; and provide preschooling and health insurance for all the nation's 4-year-olds. Bush himself boasts several bold and, in our view, crucial initiatives that require his continuing attention if they are to succeed: He has launched a multifaceted assault on terrorism, embarked on nation-building ventures in Afghanistan and Iraq, and promised to greatly expand America's efforts against the AIDS virus.

Bush's AIDS initiative could stem the tide of a plague that is set to kill more people than World War I, World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War combined. It's not clear, by contrast, what practical results, if any, would be yielded by the moon-Mars agenda. A more modest evolution in space flight technology—officials Friday were talking about a 5 percent increase in NASA's budget—would be worth debating in ordinary times. But Bush's past fiscal recklessness puts a heavy burden even on modest proposals—and flying to the moon is not modest.

The success of NASA's latest Mars venture has proved the worth of unmanned missions, while manned space flight is exorbitantly expensive. After President George H.W. Bush proposed a return to the moon as a way station for Mars, sticker shock soon ended the moon talk, and no doubt the same may happen again. In which case the current President Bush will have floated an unserious proposal, succeeding merely in sounding big and capturing newspaper headlines.

The Washington Post



A legacy beyond their gifts

By JAMES ALLEN SMITH
The Washington Post

Modern American philanthropy emerged a century ago when the great industrialists of the late 19th century—John D. Rockefeller and Andrew Carnegie the wealthiest among them—endowed huge philanthropic trusts. Their fortunes, and the amounts they gave away, were on a scale that had never been seen before, measured in the tens and ultimately the hundreds of millions of dollars.

They created enduring institutions—the University of Chicago, the Rockefeller University, the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, the Carnegie Institution of Washington, among others. And they invented modern grant-making foundations that have served as models for subsequent generations of wealthy donors. Unlike older endowments, these new foundations were flexible in purpose, chartered for such broadly stated goals as advancing and diffusing knowledge or pursuing the well-being of mankind. The mandates were general because donors knew that human needs would change from one generation to another.

The philanthropists of a century ago were convinced that research and education would lead to a better understanding of the root causes of social ills. They attacked hookworm, tuberculosis and yellow fever; they reformed medical education and other professional fields; and they created new institutions for investigating social and economic problems.

The spirit in which they worked gives us a sign of what is likely to last from the staggering wealth created in late 20th-century America. Much has been written about how philanthropy is changing, how the billionaires of today want to maintain more control over how their wealth is used. But what's truly striking is the similarity between the philanthropists of a century ago and the philanthropists of our age.

Education endures as a focus. George Soros created the Central European University in Budapest in 1991, an institution likely to survive long after his Open Society Institute spends down its last dollars. Thomas Monaghan, founder of Domino's

Pizza, has pledged more than \$200 million to establish a new Catholic university and town in Florida.

Hoping to improve higher education in the state where Wal-Mart had its start, the Walton family gave several hundred million dollars to the University of Arkansas, the largest gift ever to a public university. Ruth Lilly, heiress to a pharmaceutical fortune, left hundreds of millions to a handful of arts groups, including Poetry magazine and Americans for the Arts.

Almost certainly, today's wealth will lead to scientific advances in the battle against the health scourges of our time. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, by far the largest new foundation, is addressing the problems of HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, and is spending millions to expand vaccination programs targeting childhood diseases in the world's poorest countries. James and Virginia Stowers have donated more than a billion dollars—part of the considerable fortune that James Stowers made as the owner of an investment company—to their Institute for Medical Research. Many other large-scale donors also understand that successes in medical research and public health are huge multipliers of social and economic well-being.

Sometimes philanthropy can alter public perceptions of a problem and yield new public policies. Concerned about the loss of biodiversity around the globe, the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation has committed more than \$250 million to Conservation International's work. Others, such as the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Kaiser Family Foundation, have toiled in the field of health policy.

But the most enduring legacy of philanthropy across the decades may reside simply in the act of giving, in making the exemplary donation, whether it is to create a foundation, sustain a charitable organization or alleviate a human need. What has most often endured, as Aristotle understood and as Andrew Carnegie echoed, is the knowledge that the act of giving can bind a society together—across gulfs of wealth inequality, across accidents of good or bad fortune, across divides of optimism and despair, across generations.

Smith, an adviser to the president of the J. Paul Getty Trust, is a historian. For the current academic year, he is a visiting professor at Georgetown University, serving as the Waldemar A. Nielsen Chair in Philanthropy.

Focus on student learning

Highly energized voices of good cheer descend on the Public School System today to resume classes to educate the island's young.

The Board of Education (BOE) reconstitutes itself with the ending of members' terms and the inauguration of newly elected and reelected ones.

The teachers, school administrators and aides gathered last week for two days of professional development to broaden their context, hone their pedagogical skills and, at least, in the session on accreditation, "focus on student learning."

A week from today, the teachers will chose their representative, as requested by the Governor, to be appointed to the BOE. Cynicism among the ranks is thick that regardless of whether the representative seat is occupied or not, and whoever keeps it, t' will not make any significant difference to such things as wages, benefits and collective bargaining. Already, a Teacher-of-the-Year recipient in one of the schools is reportedly quitting over her inability to survive on the stagnant teacher's salary that has not seen the promise pay increase in many seasons.

So today, the high student energy level will be expressed first on the exchange of information among students on what Santa brought them during the holidays. Undoubtedly, there will be a membership increase to the X-box Generation.

Endless oneupmanship on all the digitized programs that Santa's wallet was able to procure for the up-to-date will go on. Aside from student voices of good cheer will also come the same tone where students' left off before the holidays with the heightened desire to assert one's budding personality through borderline mischief, leaving teachers, counselors and administrators with plenty of disruptive and aberrant behavioral issues to deal with.

There is no reason to think that the Board of Education (BOE) will reconstitute itself on a rationale that will focus sharply and primarily on student learning before personal status and political maneuverings. Besides, "Focus on student learning" is not a policy or program issue, nor does it have any bearing on budgetary considerations. It is a compliance issue to warrant accreditation imposed by funding sources, which is easily met with the submission of reams of paper work and report of frequent group meetings.

The teachers, school administrators and aides who took professional development to heart early this week will most likely be back performing time-consuming custodial functions at their schools rather than empowering and enabling pedagogy. With staffing shortage for both general and special education, sparsely staffed and thinly spread special education has a tendency to shove the differently-abled into general education classrooms without the

requisite SPED aides to accompany each student. Classroom teachers often have to sacrifice students' general welfare at the cop-out altar of inclusion to the detriment of everyone. Focus on student learning is reduced to sessions on the art and discipline of mass baby-sitting.

Despite inadequacy of pay and benefits, absence of frontline recognition and structured support (as opposed to whimsical executive dole-out) notwithstanding, teachers still manage to educate those in their classes who are willing to learn. No doubt, it is easier to be resigned to custodial functions, on the one hand, or be a ruthless disciplinarian on the other. Educating students to learn how to learn is a different matter all together.

What is required to really take "focus on student learning" to heart?

The T-Ford factory model of education where a student as a raw product is taken to an assembly line, mind stuffed with facts, memory crammed with plenty of abstract words, retention tested at periodic phases, and students moved up the grading ladder with the good test-taking stamp of approval, made generations of test passers and test cheaters amongst us. Did learning take place? Did students knew what they knew? Did they keep learning? Was there awareness of how they learned? Was there desire, discipline and skill to continue learning so that education becomes a womb-to-tomb enterprise?

The Assembly-line model of public education still defines our formal structures. Sadly, the average reading level of 6th grade students at our best Elementary Schools is that of a 4th grader. (Parents alert: join the Public Library's ParentRead program!) The data and information s/he is expected to process, retain and apply for relevance, on the other hand, is presented at the 7th grade reading and comprehension level. Teachers passing students from one grade level to another is thus, guided by charity when cajoling, trickery, sleight of hands, and everything else fails. Not to mention avoiding Cape Fear when irate parents demand discontinuance of teaching service for anyone suggesting that their cute Anthony and pixy Jo should be retained a grade behind for failure to perform passably!

If our intent is to produce only units that can operate best when there is someone who will dictate instructions, then polish the assembly line. A CNMI lawyer friend is fond of saying: "I am not paid to think; I am paid to follow instructions. I get in trouble each time I catch myself doing the T-word." If we desire cogitating human mass, then learning to learn is the way to go.

I was shocked when one of my Social Studies students during our 2nd periodic test declared without hesitation nor a shade of apology that unless I helped him with the answers to the test, he will

By JAIME R. VERGARA

Jaime R. Vergara is a Social Studies 6th grade teacher at San Vicente Elementary School and occasionally writes as a guest columnist for the Saipan Tribune.



fail. It appears that previous teachers during his lower grades, in exasperation over their students' inability to process data, made it easier on them by helping them out pass exams.

Teaching students to learn how to learn begins by deconstructing the assembly line model of education. Our educational bias promotes purposefulness, intellect and ambition to the detriment of emotion, instinct and soul. We attempt to measure the former; we ignore the latter. Further, we are short on intentional physical play, a needed outlet for our young's sugar-rich hyper-activity. Obesity now afflicts thirty percent of our young. Performing arts is reduced to learning Texas hoe-down dance steps. And we do not touch the will and the spirit at all because our secular culture is incapable of articulating what was once communicated by the religious cultures of our upbringing, albeit, desperately needing relevance to our contemporary view of what is real.

But most devastating to the learning process is the universal notion that we educate ourselves so that we can earn a living. Getting a degree as simply a means to getting a job make mercenaries out of all of us. Learning to learn happens when the young experience just the sheer pleasure of it all. Fortunately, teachers still manage to do that.

At the last Education Day celebration, someone at the podium kept referring to the Central office personnel as "keeping the best for last." A colleague whispered that the frontline teachers in the classrooms are the most treasured assets in the whole system; the central office people function best as support staff. Might that our next Teacher's Rep be able to communicate that to the rest of the Public School System!

Perhaps, what we need, in addition to a Teacher's Rep at BOE, is a frequent sharing of approaches that work, a regular exchange among teachers on what the thinking are of those on the frontlines and at ground zero on how we best enable effective student learning that is relevant and meaningful to our times.

Want to chat this up? SVESVergara@aol.com will get my fingers on the keyboard. Meanwhile, welcome back to school!

Across sands of time and oceans of space

By LAURENCE BERGREEN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

One of the great moments of the Age of Discovery occurred on Sept. 6, 1522, when Victoria, the tiny weather-beaten survivor of Ferdinand Magellan's first-ever circumnavigation of the globe, returned to its home port of Sanlucar de Barrameda, Spain.

By any conventional reckoning, the expedition was a disaster; four of the fleet's five ships were lost, and out of the 260 men who had set out from Spain three years earlier, only 18 made it all the way around the world. Magellan himself, the captain-general, was not among them, having been killed when he recklessly engaged in battle with tribal warriors in the Philippines, where he had paused en route to the Spice Islands in Indonesia.

A hotheaded and often abrasive Portuguese nobleman sailing for Spain, Magellan sacrificed his life in the course of disproving centuries of accumulated superstition and outright ignorance concerning the nature of our world, and today we prize this tragic expedition for its many contributions to our knowledge of the planet: geography, peoples, cultures and climates, to name a few.

I think we live in a new Age of Discovery today without quite realizing it. The impulse to explore—whether for commercial or political advantage, as Magellan did, or for mostly scientific reasons—remains alive and well, and as controversial as always.

NASA scientists see themselves as engaged in an enterprise that, like the voyages of the past, will change history: mapping the solar system and trying to understand our place among celestial objects that seem as exotic and remote to us now as the Spice Islands seemed to Europe in Magellan's day. "Intelligent exploration" is the name James Garvin, NASA's senior Mars scientist, gives to their approach.

This month is particularly important in the new Age of Discovery, as two of NASA's latest generation of Mars exploration rovers

roughly bounce across the surface of Mars, slowly come to rest and gradually transform themselves into roaming scientific laboratories. The robotic geologists will be prospecting Mars for its natural history, signs of water and, by extension, signs of life. The wonders began to unfold this weekend. The first spacecraft, called Spirit, landed successfully Saturday night. Its identical twin, Opportunity, will set down, if all goes well, in three weeks. (Having learned the painful lessons of recent failures in missions to Mars, NASA has embraced the principle of redundancy.)

The parallels between our methodical exploration of Mars and the Age of Discovery begin with the efforts of Prince Henry the Navigator. This Portuguese nobleman assembled a diverse academy of shipwrights, cartographers and mariners to explore the west coast of Africa, step by step. NASA's Mars team, from robotics experts and computer programmers to planetary geologists, are today's equivalent of that sort of diversity and expertise.

It was a full century later that Magellan undertook the first-ever circumnavigation. Although he was convinced that he would succeed, most believed he was attempting the impossible. In those days, it was thought that ships would never make it as far south as the Equator, that boiling seas would swallow the sailors or that magnetic islands would pull the very nails from the planks of their ships. Even the size and shape of the world were badly misunderstood. The most advanced minds in Europe did not realize that the Pacific Ocean was the largest body of water on the planet. Had Magellan known its true extent, he—or his backers—might never have undertaken his epic voyage.

To make matters worse, the art of navigation was still in its infancy. It was impossible for mariners to determine longitude, and even the length of a degree of latitude was subject to debate. There were maps, but, as might be expected, the farther from home, the more inaccurate they became, until by the time Magellan reached South America, they contained more geographical fantasy than fact.

Magellan became so exasperated with their wild inaccuracies that he threw them overboard.

Given all these hazards and difficulties, why did Magellan go? And why did his backers risk their capital and prestige on his expedition? The answer can be summed up in two words: greed and glory. If Magellan accomplished his goal, Spain hoped to seize control of the spice trade and, by extension, the emerging global economy. Magellan himself hoped to claim lands and titles and unimaginable wealth to pass on to his heirs.

NASA emphasizes science as the goal for the new Age of Discovery, but make no mistake, a political undertone exists. President Bush's recent announcement that he wants to return to the moon didn't come in a vacuum. It was likely a message aimed at China's ambitious space program and designed to put the Chinese on notice that we would not cede the moon to them. (For official purposes, no country can claim a celestial object as its own, but that will change over time.) And if, for example, the Chinese took aim at Mars, no doubt NASA's peaceful scientific pursuits would rapidly be transformed.

Now new hazards and difficulties lie in the path of human exploration, and because of them NASA understandably emphasizes the idea of sending people to Mars. But just as Magellan's voyage, in retrospect, inevitably followed Prince Henry's discoveries, human beings will no doubt launch not just robots but themselves farther and farther into space.

In the end, it would be far better for everyone if we went not just for "flags and footprints," in the words of the detractors of the space race, but in search of treasure as precious to us as spices were to those in the Renaissance—for minerals, or potent new medicines that can be developed only off the Earth—in other words, for new variations on humanity's endless quest for health and wealth, and for scientific knowledge. May we continue to pursue the course of intelligent exploration.

Montgomery to appeal, claims to be poor

By JOHN RAVELO
REPORTER

Times really change.

When businessman Bert Douglas Montgomery was on trial in connection with the Bank of Saipan debacle, he claimed to have a magnitude of business interests involving some 15 companies, calling investors' money used in the failed attempt to buy the bank as "small potatoes."

Now that he is appealing his conviction and 20-year jail term, Montgomery says he has actually nothing.

His lawyer, Bruce Berline, filed a notice of appeal at Saipan's federal court Friday, indicating that Montgomery would contest his conviction and sentence before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Berline also filed in Montgomery's

behalf an "unopposed motion" that his client will be appealing as a pauper litigant. The lawyer supported the request with an affidavit signed by Montgomery. Chief Judge Alex R. Munson granted the request.

Berline said Montgomery's financial situation makes the defendant unable to shoulder the costs of pursuing an appeal.

In the affidavit, Montgomery indicated that he is currently unemployed and that his spouse only earns \$450 monthly. He claimed that he did not receive any income from business, profession or any employment in the last 12 months.

The affidavit form also asked Montgomery the question: "Do you own any real estate, stocks, bonds, notes, automobiles, or other valuable property (excluding ordinary household furnishings and clothing)?"

He also vowed to establish a better working relationship with the Tinian legislative delegation.

Responding to accusations that the new House leadership would only cater to special interest groups, Fitial said: "It is sad to be labeled as catering only to special interest groups, such as the garment industry, because creating wealth and jobs as part of our economic plan is to support both garment and non-garment businesses. We will promote all businesses in the Commonwealth."

Fitial stressed that it would be foolhardy for any leader to phase out the garment industry at this time.

On tourism, Fitial promised a new formula where the House would try to work with the government of other countries to encourage tourists to visit the CNMI.

At the Senate, Sen. Paul A. Manglona would be handing over the reins of the upper chamber presidency to Tinian Sen. Joaquin G. Adriano—a first for Tinian. He would then take over Adriano's former post as Senate floor leader.

There will also be a reorganization of the Senate's chairmanship.

When asked on his expectations about the new House leadership, Manglona said he and the incoming Senate president have already worked before with Fitial in the 12th Legislature

To this, Montgomery answered that he "lost everything." He said he is even obligated to pay \$350 monthly for his apartment.

A day before New Year's Eve, Chief Judge Alex R. Munson sentenced Montgomery to 20 years in prison for his conviction on wire fraud and money laundering charges. The judge also directed Montgomery to pay restitution to the Bank of Saipan in the amount of over \$5.8 million, and to BoS client Michelle Hom some \$209,980. Montgomery and co-defendants Michael Wilson and Tomas Aldan would jointly pay the payment.

Right after sentencing, Munson remanded Montgomery to the custody of the U.S. Marshal, which had been in custody of the defendant since the latter violated the conditions of his temporary release several months ago.

so he does not see any problem.

"We already have a working relationship; we worked together during the previous Legislature and I do not foresee any problem for the new Senate president when it comes to working with the House," he said.

When it was pointed out that it was during the 12th Legislature that no budgets were passed because of deadlocks between the Senate and the House, Manglona said the problem did not emanate from Fitial. He declined to elaborate.

The 14th House would be composed of Covenant Party members Fitial, Babauta, Villagomez, Janet U. Maratita, Jesus SN Lizama, Ray N. Yumul, Claudio C. Norita, Crispin Ogo, and Norman Palacios; Republican Party members Hofsneider, Jesus T. Attao, Martin B. Ada, Joseph P. Guerrero, Benjamin B. Seman, Arnold I. Palacios, and Ray A. Tebute; Democrat Party's Justo S. Quitugua; and independent David M. Apatang.

The Senate, meanwhile, would be composed of incumbents Manglona, Adriano, Diego Songao, Pete P. Reyes and Thomas P. Villagomez; special election winners Joseph Mendiola and Paterno Hocog; and senators-elect Luis P. Crisostimo and Henry H. San Nicolas.

The swearing-in ceremony would start at 10am in both chambers.

when the devastation caused by supertyphoon Pongsoma on Guam turned positive for the CNMI's tourism.

Japanese arrivals last December totaled 31,820, putting the annual tally for the CNMI's premier market at 325,206. Japanese tourists comprised the bulk of 2003's visitors—71.4 percent. In 2002, the number of Japanese tourists who came to the islands totaled

326,433, representing 68.7 percent of the CNMI tourism market pie.

Korean tourists remained as the second biggest group of visitors last year by posting 69,230, even if the total actually dropped compared with 2002's 90,344 before the pullout of Korean Airlines' direct flights between Saipan and Seoul. Some 4,855 Korean tourists visited the

Melon flies have large black spot on the wing tip and black cross streak on the wing. The U.S. Agricultural Service considers melon fly as a major economic pest, which attacks various agricultural crops such as squash, cucumber, melon, tomato, pumpkin, guava, papaya, cowpea, string bean, bitter melon, among others.

Cabrera said the flies also attack bitter gourd, cantaloupe, watermelon and mango. The pests poke holes on the young fruit and lay eggs inside them, Cabrera said. A farmer would see the flies' maggots on a harvested fruit upon slicing it.

The agricultural consultant cited the proliferation of ivy gourd—an invasive vine that destroys plant life and any

other living matter underneath it—as having worsened the situation, allowing the pests to propagate. Although the abundance of melon flies normally decreases with increasing rainfall, Cabrera said the ivy gourd serves as a reservoir from which flies attack cultivated crops.

Cabrera said an assessment has yet to be done on the status of the weevils that were released to wipe out the islands' ivy gourd population. The Department of Lands and Natural Resources released a total of 450 weevils—a type of beetle that is used as a biocontrol agent—sometime in May and July last year.

Cabrera said a University of Guam expert would come to Saipan to collect

NMI

From Page 1

"I hope the CNMI government would consent to the additional hiring of [tourism personnel with] English-Chinese capability," he said.

The Pacific Asia Travel Association recently underscored the potential of China as a tourism market, saying that Chinese travelers' spending is anticipated to reach \$100 billion by 2008. In 2003, the CNMI's China market remained strong despite the SARS problem during the middle of the year, ending with an increase of 45 percent compared with the 2002 total.

Confident of the Chinese government's approval of the CNMI as a tourist destination, Sablan said this development would translate to increased visitors to the islands. While the application for accreditation remains pending, he said the CNMI should start gearing up to welcome a surging tourist market.

The MVA is in the process of hiring a representative office for China. Sablan said the MVA's Ad Hoc Committee has narrowed down the selection to three aspiring companies, which would be invited by the tourism authority to elaborate on their respective proposals.

Sometime last year, China National Tourism Administration chairman He Guangwei visited the Commonwealth unofficially to assess the islands' request for accreditation as a tourist destination.

The Federal Aviation Administration has granted a permanent flight permit to China Southern Airlines, which used to operate charter services between Guangzhou and Saipan, in collaboration with the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino. The CNMI's Commonwealth Ports Authority had also disclosed negotiations with other Chinese carriers for possible nonstop services between Saipan and major cities in China, including Shanghai. According to the CPA, the CNMI could tap the Chinese city's affluent families and businessmen as visitors.

Sablan said the CNMI should also consider expanding its tourist attractions to include convention centers that would cater to businessmen. "I think we should have more activities in the areas of museum and hiking," he added.

Rota, meanwhile, could concentrate on having fruit farms, where tourists could comfortably select locally grown fruits and pay them at the counter, according to Sablan.

PATA's Strategic Intelligence Centre managing director, John Koldowski, said there were more departures from China than from Japan—the CNMI's premier tourism market—in 2002. More than 16 million travelers from China traveled outside the country, he said. In 1993, he recorded outbound travel from China at only 3.74 million.

Compared with travel statistics in 1996, China's outbound travel soared by 328.1 percent, while that of Japan slightly went down by 1 percent. "What Japan took 30 years to do, China did in six years," Koldowski said.

Koldowski also gave several tips on how to deal with Chinese tourists, considering their cultural background. Besides the need to break the language barrier by learning Chinese languages, he said tourist attractions must perform well beyond the clients' expectations because of the importance of "word-of-mouth" in the Chinese culture.

Many Chinese love shopping and dining, he said. However, they don't like Western food much.

"Chinese would prefer a sincere attitude rather than casual style—for example, greeting them always by last name if possible, with their title like 'General Manager'. This shows their status and gives them 'face,'" according to him. "The manner of the speaker is considered more important than the content, so one needs to inject sufficient flattery and protect everyone's face. The Chinese are traditionally suspicious of 'foreign devils' so work hard at creating trust."

NEW

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the House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communication. Villagomez is a former executive director of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

The chairmanship of the other eight committees—Ways and Means, Judicial and Government Operations, Tourism, Natural Resources, Education, Commerce, Health and Welfare, and U.S. and Foreign Affairs—is expected to be announced today. It was not known if Fitial would retain the sub-committee on Labor and Immigration that was created in the 13th House.

Fitial said the 14th House would primarily focus on an economic recovery plan for the Commonwealth, with its legislative agenda centering on removing what it perceives as bottleneck statutes that hamper economic development.

He also stressed the need for a better working relationship, both with the Senate and the Babauta administration.

"We have talked about this thoroughly and we don't want to get in any confrontation with the Senate and the administration. We will get people's help by holding many public hearings to resolve issues. Let us bring the issues to the people," Fitial said.

'03 ARRIVALS

From Page 1

which ended with a total of 442,466 visitors.

Monthly arrivals for December gave the calendar year a strong end, with a total of 41,535 visitors. The figure, however, translates to a 13.9-percent decline when compared with December 2002's 48,261,

when the devastation caused by supertyphoon Pongsoma on Guam turned positive for the CNMI's tourism.

Japanese arrivals last December totaled 31,820, putting the annual tally for the CNMI's premier market at 325,206. Japanese tourists comprised the bulk of 2003's visitors—71.4 percent. In 2002, the number of Japanese tourists who came to the islands totaled

326,433, representing 68.7 percent of the CNMI tourism market pie.

Korean tourists remained as the second biggest group of visitors last year by posting 69,230, even if the total actually dropped compared with 2002's 90,344 before the pullout of Korean Airlines' direct flights between Saipan and Seoul. Some 4,855 Korean tourists visited the

approximately 44.49 percent compared with 2002's 10,476. Some 1,743 Chinese visitors came to the islands last December, better by 45 percent than December 2002's 1,202.

The Philippine market followed with 4,684 visitors last year, performing better than Hong Kong's 2,247 total. Taiwan also contributed 717 to last year's tourism total.

EATING

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"They do a lot of damage to our commercial production—fruits and vegetables," Cabrera said.

In December 2003, Cabrera said each of the 40 traps installed on Saipan alone caught about 150 to 200 melon flies weekly.

Cabrera first raised the alarm on the growing population of melon flies in early Nov. 2003, when visiting agricultural experts from Hawaii conducted a workshop among local agricultural officials and farmers. During this time, he said the traps caught an average of 500 melon flies each week.

Melon flies have large black spot on the wing tip and black cross streak on the wing. The U.S. Agricultural Service considers melon fly as a major economic pest, which attacks various agricultural crops such as squash, cucumber, melon, tomato, pumpkin, guava, papaya, cowpea, string bean, bitter melon, among others.

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other living matter underneath it—as having worsened the situation, allowing the pests to propagate. Although the abundance of melon flies normally decreases with increasing rainfall, Cabrera said the ivy gourd serves as a reservoir from which flies attack cultivated crops.

Cabrera said an assessment has yet to be done on the status of the weevils that were released to wipe out the islands' ivy gourd population. The Department of Lands and Natural Resources released a total of 450 weevils—a type of beetle that is used as a biocontrol agent—sometime in May and July last year.

Cabrera said a University of Guam expert would come to Saipan to collect data about the weevils to ascertain whether their population has been growing.

According to Eric B. Jang, research leader for the USDA's Pacific Basin Agricultural Research Center, controlling the population of ivy gourd would help curb the increase in melon flies.

Since annihilation of ivy gourd is not expected until after a few years despite the release of biocontrol agents, the USDA proposed three techniques to mitigate the agricultural impact of melon flies: the removal of infested fruit; the selective use of protein-bait spray; and the annihilation of male flies through the use of chemical lures to attract them into traps.

According to an article by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, the melon fly was discovered in Solomon Islands in 1984, and is now widespread in all provinces, except Makira, Rennell-Bellona and Temotu. It has been introduced and occurs in Hawai'i (first detected in 1895), Guam (detected in 1936), Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands (detected in 1943), eradicated by sterile insect release in 1963, but reestablished, from neighboring Guam, in 1981), and Nauru (detected in 1982 and eradicated in 1999 by male annihilation and protein bait spraying, but reintroduced in 2001). It is also present in some parts of Africa (Kenya, Tanzania, Mauritius, Réunion).

BOE OKs Inos pay hike

By LIBERTY DONES
REPORTER

The Board of Education has unanimously approved to increase education commissioner Rita H. Inos' annual pay from \$70,000 to \$80,000 effective today.

Board members said Inos' pay increase is long overdue.

"It should have been done long time ago but it kept being postponed due to funding availability," said BOE chairman Herman T. Guerrero.

Member Marja Lee Taitano, who moved to have the increase take effect Dec. 14 rather than Dec. 28, said Inos deserves an even bigger pay hike.

"She has bigger responsibilities than Northern Marianas College president Kenneth Wright and yet he gets a higher pay," Taitano said. Wright was hired in August 2002 for \$90,000. Both have doctorate degrees.

"PSS is the biggest government agency. We have certainly more students than NMC," said Guerrero.

Inos is now on her fifth year as education commissioner. She was first hired for a four-year term in 1998 and was retained by the current board in May 2002 for another four years.

Her rehiring came a few months following her failed election bid for a Lt. Governor position in the 2001 elections.

Inos is seen as "very hardworking and a competent person to handle PSS."

Inos, who took a leave of absence for about five months this year for medical purposes, returned to PSS in September.

Speak Mandarin program at NMC

Northern Marianas College will be offering courses in the Second Language Certificate program, conversational Mandarin Chinese course and Creative Writing course in Spring 2004.

Second Language Certificate program

- LN 220 Introduction to Linguistics on Mondays and Wednesdays from 5pm to 6:25pm
- LN 240 TFL/TSL Theory and Methodology on Saturdays from 1pm to 4pm.

Conversational Mandarin Chinese course

- CN 100 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7pm to 8:25pm.

Creative Writing course

- EN 201 on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:30pm to 7:55pm.

E-Card to be issued to Filipino workers

The Philippine Consulate General announced Saturday that a delegation from Manila—composed of Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, and Equitable officials—will be on Saipan from Dec. 17 to 18, 2003.

The team will conduct an information campaign about the

various programs of the Philippine government for overseas Filipino workers in the Northern Marianas. These programs include OWWA's Voluntary Membership Program and the Electronic Identification card, or E-Card.

The E-Card serves as permanent identification for overseas Filipino workers who have undergone processing at the

POEA, as well as those who are active OWWA members. The E-Card can also serve as an Overseas Employment Certificate; it can help facilitate claims for OWWA benefits; and it may also be used as an international ATM card.

An active OWWA member who wishes to be issued an E-Card must fill up an application form

and submit a 2x2 colored photo. The E-Card will be issued free of charge. Those who are not yet members of OWWA are urged to apply for membership, while those who have inactive accounts are also urged to file for a renewal.

The Manila delegation will be at the Philippine Consulate General's Filipino Workers Resource Center on

the ground floor of the Nauru Building in Susupe on Dec. 2003 from 8am onwards.

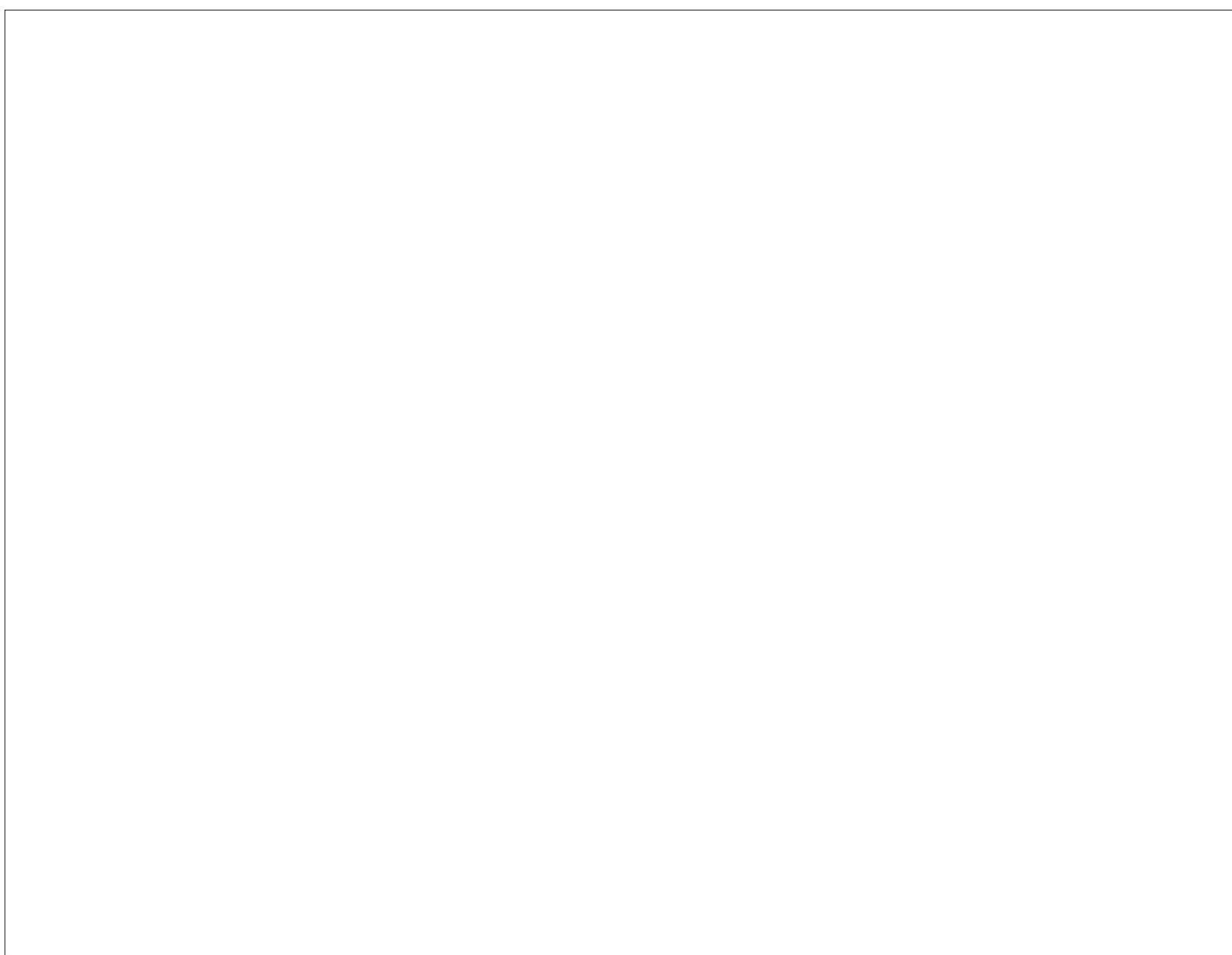
The Philippine Consulate General is inviting all Filipino workers on Saipan to the FWRC to avail of this opportunity. For additional information, call the Philippine Overseas Labor Office at 235-3411, or the OWWA-Saipan office at 235-6992.

microl
oh yeah
+red

Business

dynasty

virtue
+orange





Asia

Rebels hit Philippine power plant, 7 die

By OLIVER TEVES
AP WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Three rebels and four soldiers died Saturday when the guerrilla New People's Army attacked a power plant south of the capital, the military said. The attack came days after a rebel official warned of increased attacks to punish the government of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo for its close ties to the United States.

About 50 New People's

Army guerrillas attacked government troops guarding the power plant in Calaca about 2 a.m., armed forces spokesman Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero said. Air force Maj. Restituto Padilla said three government troops were killed in the gunbattle and a fourth died later in a hospital.

The rebels also wounded six on the government side.

Rebel fighters fired at least two volleys of light anti-tank rockets at the detachment guarding the power plant.

Padilla said his forces

recovered the bodies of three rebels, but a spokesman for the New People's Army, Gregorio Rosal, said he was only aware of two casualties.

After government reinforcements arrived, the rebels fled and were being pursued, Lucero said.

Shortly after the incident, another group of rebels ambushed a convoy of soldiers sent to reinforce a detachment in the nearby town of Balayan. There were no reports of casualties.

Lucero said the rebels intended to destroy the power

...while blast at Indon café kills four

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—

An explosion ripped through a crowded cafe in central Indonesia on Saturday night, killing four people and wounding three others, police said.

The blast appeared to be from a bomb planted in the cafe in the town of Palopo on South Sulawesi province, said Maj. Wisnu Wirdita.

"It is suspected to be bomb

but we are still investigating," Wirdita told The Associated Press, declining to give more details.

Four people were killed in the blast, and three wounded were taken to a hospital, he said.

In 1999 and 2000, bloody fighting between Muslim and Christians left more than 1,000 dead in nearby Central Sulawesi province. The violence did not spread to South

plant, about 50 miles south of Manila, and cause a widespread blackout on the main Philippine island of Luzon.

"They intended to paralyze the livelihood of the people ... and they would just be alienated from the masses," Lucero said.

The rebel spokesman told DZRH radio the attack was "in response to the directive of the party to intensify tactical offensives" and to punish the soldiers based in the area for human rights violations.

"The attack was directed at

Sulawesi, however.

Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim country, has been rocked by a series of bombings in recent years.

On Oct. 12, 2002, suspected militants belonging to the al-Qaida linked Jemaah Islamiyah terror group blew up two nightclubs on Bali island, killing 202 people, most of them foreign tourists.

the detachment," Rosal said. "In truth they did not do anything to (the facility)," he said.

Rosal on Tuesday vowed to intensify attacks ahead of May elections in hopes of bringing down Macapagal. After the Sept. 11 attacks, the Philippine guerrillas became a target of the U.S.-led global war on terror when Washington placed them on its list of terrorist organizations and urged nations to help wipe them out by denying them refuge and money.

WHO checks 2nd suspected SARS case in southern China

BELJING (AP)—World Health Organization experts searched a restaurant in southern China on Saturday where a suspected SARS patient worked as a waitress serving dishes of civet cats and other exotic wildlife that may transmit the virus.

Authorities in Guangdong province, where the woman is hospitalized, neared the end of a mass slaughter of the animals that was ordered after genetic tests showed a possible link to an earlier confirmed SARS case. Anyone caught trying to hide civets—a local delicacy in the province—was threatened with fines of up to \$12,000.

WHO experts examined the kitchens and dining rooms of the two-story restaurant in the provincial capital of Guangzhou, said Roy Wadia, a spokesman for the team. It didn't specialize in wild game, he said, but "served some exotic animal dishes, including civets."

The five-member WHO team flew to Guangdong on Friday to join Chinese experts in the search for the source of the disease.

Civets—weasel-like mammals related to the mongoose—were cited as a possible source of the earlier outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome, though scientists aren't sure where the virus came from or how its human victims were infected.

The first outbreak, thought to have begun in Guangdong, killed 774 people worldwide and sickened more than 8,000.

On Monday, Chinese authorities ordered the mass slaughter of civets despite protests by animal activists and a lack of confirmation that they were the source of the disease.

The order came after researchers found a genetic similarity between a virus found in civets and China's first SARS case of the season—a 32-year-old television producer in Guangzhou. He was hospitalized Dec. 20 and released this week after he was pronounced recovered.

The government set a deadline of Saturday—a target that a local official said authorities expected to meet.

"The civet cats have basically all been slaughtered," said an official of the Guangzhou Anti-SARS Office, who would give only his surname, Liu. "We now are preventing civet cats from entering from other provinces."

Other animals targeted in the crackdown include badgers and raccoon dogs, which also are served in Guangdong restaurants. The animals were seized from markets, restaurants and breeding farms. Authorities also set up highway check points to search for smuggled civets but didn't say whether any had been found that way.

saipan shipping
inauguration

North Korea says it showed nuke deterrent

Afghan violence kills 4 suspected Taliban

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP)—Four suspected Taliban fighters died when a bomb they were laying on a road regularly used by Afghan soldiers exploded prematurely, an official said Saturday.

Meanwhile, suspected drug smugglers fatally shot five Afghan soldiers, extending a wave of violence in southern Afghanistan since the ratification of the country's first post-Taliban constitution last Sunday.

The bodies of four men were found on a road between

Musa Qala and Sangin in Helmand province, some 70 miles northwest of the former Taliban stronghold of Kandahar.

Provincial government spokesman Mohammed Wali Alizai told The Associated Press that the men were carrying documents containing satellite phone numbers that showed they had links to the Taliban. He gave no further details.

"They were Taliban trying to lay a bomb for the Afghan soldiers that often patrol this area," Alizai said.

Four time bombs and two wireless sets were found near the bodies.

The incident came four days after a bomb in Kandahar city killed 15 Afghan civilians, most of them children, and a shooting in northern Helmand left 27 civilians dead.

The violence underlines the failure of U.S. and Afghan forces to crush the Taliban two years after their ouster, and threatens the timetable for summer elections under the new constitution.

rest so she could fully regain good health.

By JAE-SUK YOO
AP WRITER

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) —

North Korea said Saturday that it showed its "nuclear deterrent" to an unofficial U.S. delegation that visited the disputed Yongbyon nuclear complex, which had been closed to outsiders since the North expelled U.N. inspectors more than a year ago.

A member of the delegation, which included experts and former government officials, said the five Americans were allowed to see everything they requested but it was not clear if the "nuclear deterrent" was a bomb. Delegates said they could give no further details until they reported to Washington.

The visit came amid efforts to arrange a new round of six-nation talks on ending the standoff over the North's suspected nuclear weapons program, which Pyongyang says is necessary to defend the country against a possible U.S. invasion. A first round of talks in August ended without much progress.

"As everybody knows, the United States compelled the DPRK to build a nuclear deterrent," North Korea's official KCNA news agency quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying.

"We showed this to Lewis and his party this time," the spokesman said, referring one of the delegates,

John W. Lewis, a Stanford University professor emeritus of international relations.

The delegates, who returned Saturday to Beijing, would not say how much time they spent at Yongbyon. Lewis said they met North Korean military, foreign affairs, scientific and economic officials but would not identify them or say what they discussed.

"We are a private delegation," Lewis said. "We were not there to negotiate. We were not there to be inspectors."

The delegation was the first group from outside the reclusive communist country to visit the Yongbyon facility since the expulsion of U.N. inspectors at the end of 2002.

ASIAN Brief

US seeks to encourage India, Pakistan

NEW DELHI (AP)—The United States is claiming no credit for the recent moves by Indian and Pakistani leaders toward resumed peace talks, but it wants to encourage them, an American diplomat said Saturday.

Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Pakistani President Gen. Pervez Musharraf agreed on Monday—during their first meeting in 2 1/2 years—to resume talks on the issues that have divided their countries for five decades, including the fractious dispute over control of divided Kashmir.

"We didn't do it," U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage said in an interview on New Delhi Television.

"If we have been helpful, it's because we were able to talk to both sides at moments of high tension," Armitage said.

He attributed the breakthrough in two years of stalemated Indian-Pakistani relations to "the courage of Indians and Pakistanis."

China official fired after disappearing

BEIJING (AP)—The chief legislator of a Chinese province has been dismissed on suspicion of corruption—three months after he apparently fled investigators.

Sun Bingchen was removed Friday as secretary-general of the Standing Committee of the legislature of Shanxi province, the official Xinhua News Agency reported. The northern province is a major industrial and mining region with 35 million people.

Sun, 60, was under investigation after complaints of unspecified "economic problems" during his earlier term as a provincial justice and prison official, Xinhua said.

It said Sun was last seen Sept. 28 leaving his office and getting into a taxi in the provincial capital of Taiyuan after investigators questioned him five times but didn't detain him.

Pakistan seeks 3 believed to aid al-Qaida

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistani authorities gave tribal leaders a two-day ultimatum on Saturday to hand over three tribesmen believed to have sheltered al-Qaida terrorists near the Afghan border.

Troops meanwhile were hunting suspected al-Qaida militants or tribesmen who fired rockets Thursday at an army camp in the border area, which is a possible hideout for Osama bin Laden and other fugitives. The attack killed four soldiers and wounded five.

The Pakistani military came up empty-handed after launching a raid backed by helicopters Thursday to capture 15-20 suspected al-Qaida fighters who were believed to be hiding at three compounds in the tiny village of Kalosha, near the border with Afghanistan.

Searches of the compounds turned up nothing, and the three owners as well as the al-Qaida suspects eluded capture.

Stress blamed for Japan princess' health

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese Crown Princess Masako, who was hospitalized last month with a viral infection, said Saturday her health has deteriorated because of the pressures of royal life.

Masako, 40, has been forced to limit her royal duties in recent months because of poor health.

The popular princess was hospitalized for five days last month after she was diagnosed with herpes zoster, commonly known as shingles. Caused by the same virus that is responsible for chickenpox, shingles is usually not dangerous and is often induced by stress and fatigue.

"Since my marriage over 10 years ago, I have tried to do the best I can under huge pressure in an unfamiliar environment," Masako said in a statement released to Japanese palace reporters and published Saturday in newspapers.

"But I have a feeling that (recent health problems) resulted from the accumulation of mental and physical fatigue during this time," she said.

Masako said she needed to

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World

Six Iraqi protesters killed during clash

By MATTHEW ROSENBERG
AP WRITER

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP)—British soldiers and Iraqi police clashed Saturday with armed, stone-throwing protesters in southeastern Iraq, killing six people. U.S. officials acknowledged American soldiers mistakenly killed two Iraqi policemen after they failed to identify themselves to a patrol.

In Baghdad, a senior U.S. military officer confirmed that preliminary reports showed that a U.S. Army medevac helicopter

that crashed last week near Fallujah, killing all nine soldiers aboard, was shot down.

And north of the capital, the U.S. military said it was investigating allegations that soldiers killed four Iraqi civilians who tried to pass a convoy this month in Tikrit, Saddam Hussein's hometown.

The shooting of the policemen occurred Friday after paratroopers from the 173rd Airborne Brigade responded to a report of "family fighting" in Kirkuk, about 150 miles north of Baghdad.

Paratroopers spotted two men firing into a house, said Maj. Josslyn Aberle, a spokeswoman for the 4th Infantry Division. The men, who were wearing long coats, fled as the troops approached and were joined by a third man, she said.

"The soldiers verbally warned the three to stop and then fired warning shots," Aberle said. "The men refused to comply and the soldiers took a defensive position and fired," killing two of them and detaining the third.



First group of Iraqi detainees released from Abu Ghraib prison wave from the back of a truck in west Baghdad, Thursday, Jan 8, 2004. AP

All three were found to be Iraqi policemen, Aberle said. The U.S. military is investigating why they refused to identify themselves.

Saturday's trouble in Amarah, 200 miles southeast of Baghdad, started when hundreds of Iraqis angry over the lack of jobs in town gathered in front of the office of the U.S.-led coalition to demand work.

As the protesters grew agitated, shots rang out from the crowd, a British military spokeswoman said. At the same time, she said troops "received reports of small explosions in the crowd."

Iraqi police, believing they were under attack, opened fire into the crowd but did not hit any of the protesters, she said. But witnesses said the police killed some of the protesters.

British soldiers moved in

with armored vehicles to support the police, and protesters hurled at least three explosive devices at them, she said.

One man "who was in the process of throwing a device" was shot dead by the soldiers, the spokeswoman said.

The crowd dispersed but later some of them returned and lobbed two explosive devices at the armored cars. Soldiers shot one of the attackers and apparently wounded him, she added. Three other devices were thrown at the soldiers before tensions eased.

Six people were killed and at least 11 wounded, according to Dr. Saad Hamoud of the Al-Zahrawi Surgical Hospital. The British said they had reports of five deaths and one injury. There were no casualties among police or soldiers.

CTSI INAUGURATION

British officer famed for speech quits

LONDON (AP)—A British officer who made headlines with a stirring eve-of-battle speech to troops preparing to fight in Iraq has resigned from the army, a newspaper reported.

The Mail on Sunday said Col. Tim Collins, 43, had handed in his resignation last week and was expected to leave the army this summer after 22 years of service.

The Ministry of Defense refused to comment on the report, saying it did not discuss individuals publicly.

Collins, who commanded the 1st battalion of the Irish Guards, was often photographed smoking a cigar and wearing designer sunglasses. He galvanized his troops in Kuwait before the war with a speech that urged them to do their duty while treating the enemy with respect.

"Wipe them out if that is what they choose. But if you are ferocious in battle, remember to be

magnanimous in victory," he said. Prince Charles was so impressed that he wrote to Collins to say how "profoundly moved" he was by the "extraordinarily stirring, civilized and humane" speech.

Collins was investigated for war crimes after a U.S. Army reservist accused him of mistreating Iraqi prisoners, but was cleared of any wrongdoing.

The Mail on Sunday quoted Collins' wife Caroline as saying he was disillusioned with changes in the armed forces.

"Tim is no longer convinced that the army reflects the country with the fourth largest economy in the world," she was quoted as saying. "He fears it is becoming a cottage industry."

"He's worried it is being crippled by political correctness, petty bureaucracy and the refusal of politicians who send British soldiers to war to give them enough money to do their job."

Palestinians say they can declare a state

JERUSALEM (AP)— Palestinian leaders on Saturday asserted the right to unilaterally declare an independent state in the absence of a peace deal with Israel, responding to Israel's own threats of one-sided action.

The go-it-alone declarations reflect both sides' frustrations with more than three years of fighting and stalled peace talks.

The PLO Executive Committee, one of the Palestinians' key leadership bodies, met Friday night to discuss the ongoing conflict with Israel and reiterated the right to declare a state in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Arab parts of Jerusalem -

lands that Israel took control of in the 1967 Mideast war.

The Palestinians' path to statehood has come under question amid warnings by Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon that he could give up on peace talks and draw a boundary that would leave the Palestinians with much less land than they seek.

Sharon recently outlined a plan under which he would withdraw forces from parts of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, dismantle some Jewish settlements along the way and draw his own boundary between Israel and the Palestinians if peace talks remain stopped.

On Saturday, Saleh Rafat, a member of the PLO committee,

said Israel's actions will not prevent the Palestinians from declaring "an independent Palestinian state within the 1967 border." But there are no immediate plans to declare a state, Rafat said.

Cabinet minister Saeb Erekat also emphasized that a "two-state solution is the option of the Palestinian leadership."

Sharon adviser Dore Gold said a hasty Palestinian declaration of statehood would lead to instability.

"There are no shortcuts to peace," Gold said. "The way forward to peace... requires a dismantlement of terrorism and an unconditional cease-fire."

Brazil to strengthen fingerprint policy

BRASILIA (AP)—The Brazilian government will issue an executive order strengthening a new policy of fingerprinting all U.S. visitors in response to anti-terror measures enforced by the United States, news reports said.

The new Brazilian measures have delayed U.S. travelers in airports for up to nine hours since Jan. 1. A judge ordered them after the United States announced it would begin fingerprinting travelers arriving from other countries, including Brazil.

An order making the Brazilian measures an official government policy will be released on Monday, TV Globo quoted government officials as saying.

A draft of the one-page order was made public by Globo.com, the website of Rio

de Janeiro's O Globo newspaper. The order also sets up a team of officials from the justice and foreign ministries to evaluate the procedures.

U.S. Customs, using digital technology, on Monday began photographing and taking fingerprints of arriving foreigners. The only exceptions are visitors from 27 countries—mostly European nations—whose citizens are allowed into the United States for up to 90 days without visas.

U.S. officials consider the Brazilian response discriminatory because it affects only American citizens. Tourism officials are worried it will discourage Americans from visiting.

Brazil denies it is retaliating for the U.S. policy, but Judge Julier da Silva's order to begin

fingerprinting contained tough rhetoric, calling the U.S. program "absolutely brutal, threatening to human rights, violating human dignity, xenophobic and worthy of the worst horrors committed by the Nazis."

Foreign Minister Celso Amorim on Saturday acknowledged that the United States is concerned about boosting security, but said it should not infringe on the rights of law-abiding travelers.

"We are working for an integration of the Americas. It is natural then that there be no difficulties (for people)," Amorim said on TV Globo upon the end of a meeting with President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and cabinet colleagues in Brasilia.

U.S. diplomats were not available for comment.

AROUND THE WORLD

21 migrants killed in sea mishap

TIRANA, Albania (AP)—An inflatable speedboat packed with Albanian migrants trying to sneak into Italy sank in up to 20-foot high waves and strong winds off Albania's coast, killing 21 people, officials said Saturday.

Eleven others survived after the boat sank off the Karaburun peninsula near Vlora, 85 miles southwest of Tirana. Two people were listed in serious condition, police spokesman Floriani Serjani said in a statement. No one was believed to be missing.

Police arrested two of the survivors believed to be migrant smugglers. Two high-ranking Albanian police officers who are related to one of the suspects also were suspended while authorities investigate whether they were involved.

Survivor Gentian Kurtmetaj, in his 20s, said the passengers in the 43-foot-long boat had paid about \$2,300 each for the journey across the Adriatic Sea, which normally takes 3 to 3 1/2 hours. The average monthly salary in Albania is \$200.

Most of the passengers were from the northern districts of Shkodra and Malesi e Madhe, among Albania's poorest areas. Three women and 18 men were among the dead, said Lt. Col. Antonio Passaro, a spokesman for NATO in Albania.

First UK royal baby photos released

LONDON (AP)—Prince Edward and his wife, Sophie, released the first official photos of their baby daughter on Saturday.

The photos show tiny Lady Louise Windsor dressed in white and nestled in the arms of her parents two months after her premature birth. She is Queen Elizabeth II's seventh grandchild and is eighth in line to the throne.

The portrait was taken by her uncle, amateur photographer Prince Andrew, as the royal family gathered at their Sandringham estate for Christmas.

Prince Andrew became interested in photography while in the Royal Navy and published a book of mainly black-and-white pictures two years after buying his first camera in 1983.

He photographed the queen to mark her 60th birthday and her Golden Jubilee celebrating 50 years on the throne.

One picture of Lady Louise was released free of charge, but another three images will be sold, with profits going to charity.

Chavez tells US not to meddle

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Following a week of tense exchanges with Washington, President Hugo Chavez on Saturday said American officials should not "stick their noses" in Venezuela's affairs.

U.S. National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice said Friday that Chavez should show "that he believes in democratic processes" by allowing the recall referendum on his rule to take place.

The comments followed a week of back-and-forth comments that began when U.S. officials accused Venezuela and Cuba of cooperating to undermine democratic governments in the region.

On Saturday, Chavez said the United States was wrong to comment on Venezuela's internal affairs.

"It is not up to them to stick their noses here in Venezuela," Chavez said. "What occurs in Venezuela only concerns Venezuelans."

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TRIBUNE INAUGURATION

TRIBUNE INAUGURATION

Health & Fitness

Here's looking at you—and your well-being

By BENEDICT CAREY
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Maybe it's not so shallow after all, that most good-natured greeting, "Hey, you're looking well." If made in earnest, this observation can be a remarkably accurate assessment of a person's physical health, a new study suggests.

Researchers in New Jersey had a team of students conduct in-depth interviews with 851 men and women, age 50 and up, all living in a retirement community. After a short training course, the students visited the retirees at home and asked about their moods, medical histories, hobbies and the circumstances of their lives. After each interview, the students assigned an overall health rating, from one (appears sick) to five (appears very healthy), to the retiree. For comparison, the retirees rated their own health on a scale from one (poor) to five (excellent).

Ten years later, the men and women who the students thought appeared sick or less healthy were three times more likely to have died than those rated as healthy-looking, the researchers found. The predictive value of the students' ratings, they also found, was far better than the health grades the retirees had given themselves 10 years earlier—grades that, presumably, were based on much better information (that is, their own experience).

"The students were paying attention to whether the other

person was animated or not, their expressiveness, how well they functioned, the pool of life energy that was there — things that we think could be very important in judging health," said Howard Leventhal, a psychologist at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, N.J. Leventhal conducted the study, which appears in the current issue of the journal *Health Psychology*, with his wife, Dr. Elaine Leventhal, an internist at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, and psychologist Ian Brissette.

When rating their own health, people often brush their medical histories with a gloss of optimism and hope. "My heart is bad, but it's not that bad." "The diabetes is progressing, but it's not so serious." In fact, good psychological health rests partly on a refusal to indulge in gloomy preoccupation with the threat of illness, even while taking steps to address real symptoms. Doctors also have shown that chronic depression can slow recovery from heart attacks, strokes or other illnesses.

That's why the common social lie told to haggard-looking friends, in-laws or others—"Hey, you look great"—also has health consequences, Leventhal said. As previous studies have found, people told they look unwell are highly likely to suddenly notice "symptoms," even when they're physically fine. In this case, perhaps, the schoolmasters are right: If you don't have anything good to say, then don't.

In the short run

By JANE E. ALLEN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Some joggers report a "runner's high" after exercising for extended periods, but Canadian researchers have found that longer runs are not always better when it comes to mood improvement.

They recruited 69 physically active women from university recreation classes and running clubs and divided them into three groups. Two groups were instructed to get their heart rate up to 70 percent of its maximum while running on an indoor track. One group ran 25 minutes, the other ran 40 minutes. The third group was told to sit in the bleachers for 40 minutes and observe what was happening around them.

After the workouts, participants rated their levels of physical exhaustion (feeling fatigued, tired, worn out); revitalization (feeling

energetic, refreshed, revived), tranquility (feeling calm, peaceful and relaxed) and positive engagement (feeling enthusiastic, upbeat, happy).

Only the 25-minute runners reported a significant increase in tranquility. Both running groups reported feeling less fatigued than the no-exercise controls, but only the 40-minute runners experienced a statistically significant decrease in fatigue.

Regardless of how long they stayed on the track, runners reported feeling happier and more refreshed after exercising.

Dr. Tim Church, medical director of the Cooper Institute in Dallas, said the findings reinforce the notion that people can reap benefits from a moderate amount of exercise.

"The idea that there are benefits at 25 minutes supports our, and the surgeon general's, idea that it doesn't take that much," he said.

Life & Style

Tacoma called nation's most stressed city

TACOMA, Wash. (AP)—More nerve-racking than New York, more vexing than Vegas, this port city of 195,000 is a new survey's pick for the nation's most stressed-out big city.

In a survey based on divorces, suicide rates and other factors, Tacoma topped the list of stressful cities—followed by Miami, New Orleans, Las Vegas, New York City and Portland, Ore.

"Basically there wasn't one thing that stood out," said Bert Sperling, CEO of Fast Forward, Inc., which produces the BestPlaces Web site, which released the survey Friday.

"It's cloudy in Tacoma much of the time, and the suicide and property crime rates are high," the Web site states. "On a brighter note, Tacomans can feel safe from bodily harm thanks to the low violent crime rate."

Tacoma's unemployment rate, which was 7.7 percent last fall when the data was collected, was well above the survey's average rate of 5.8 percent. The city's divorce rate was also high, with 12.4 percent of adults divorced.

Sperling offered some consolation for Tacomans: "You were just the worst out of the 100 biggest cities. There are a lot of smaller places that are more stressful."

Car fans check out new models in Detroit

By TAREK EL-TABLAWY

AP WRITER

David Schneider's eyes lit up, his jaw dropped and his heart raced as he reached out to touch the brilliant, metallic silver exterior of a Porsche Carrera GT. "That's probably the closest I'm ever going to get to this car," Schneider said of the \$440,774, 605-horsepower sports car.

He turned to his wife, Samantha, who was tugging impatiently at his sleeve while trying to turn the stroller carrying their 2-year-old son.

"I don't want to mortgage the house twice just to buy a car," she said. "Come on, let's go look at a minivan."

While media previews started last weekend, Saturday was the first day for the public to see the 2004 North American International Auto Show,

which runs through Jan. 19.

Some people, like the Schneiders, of Chicago, drove hundreds of miles for the event. Hundreds jammed the convention center and crowded around exhibits by automakers from around the world.

Elbert Foster, a Cadillac salesman, jotted down notes about BMW's Z4 Roadster 3.0i, a two-door convertible with a six-cylinder, 224-horsepower engine and a price tag of nearly \$42,000, and compared it to a Cadillac sports model.

"I'd buy the Cadillac XLR if I could afford paying the \$75,000 price tag," said Foster, of Detroit. "But this is a much better deal. I want this in red."

Foster did n't

anticipate much of an argument from his wife. "I've been married for 43 years. Whatever I want, I'm going to get," he said.

Amid the glitter of neon signs and brightly polished cars, some automakers provided visitors with flashy entertainment.

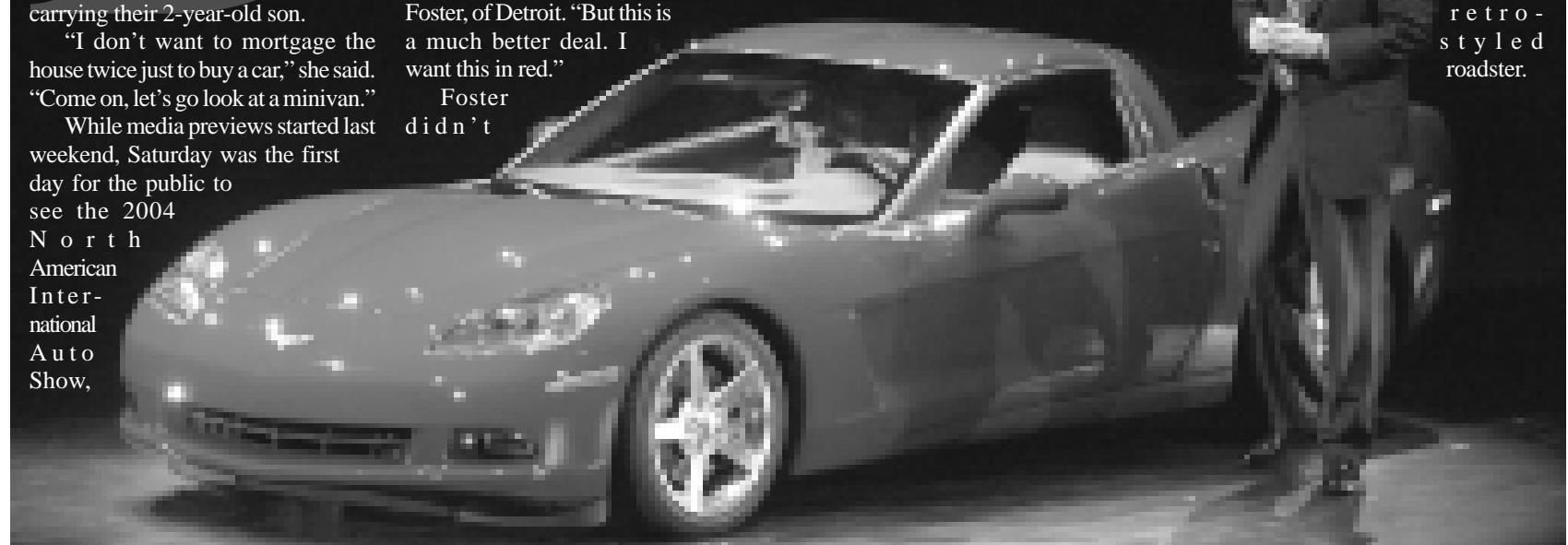
Dodge set up an amusement park-style NASCAR simulator for racing fans. Children hammed it up for camera-toting parents who placed them behind the wheels of big sport utility vehicles.

The industry's changing fashions didn't have universal appeal. Ford

Motor Co.'s Bronco concept SUV, a boxy two-door that harkened back to older models, didn't appeal to Silvio Imperioli.

"I think this retro stuff has got to stop sooner or later. It's getting pretty boring, now," said Imperioli, 38, of Windsor, Ontario.

But he said his dream car was Ford's Shelby Cobra, itself a retro-styled roadster.



General Motors Chairman and Chief executive Officer Rick Wagoner stands with the new 2005 Chevrolet Corvette C6 Sunday, Jan. 4, 2004, during a rehearsal prior to the Corvette's official debut in conjunction with the North American International Auto Show in Detroit. AP

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inauguration

PBS funding up after 3-year dry spell

The flow of corporate money to PBS has increased after a three-year dry spell, but a sponsor has yet to be found for "Masterpiece Theatre," the public television network's president said Saturday.

PBS has committed to funding the venerable drama series for two years in the absence of a sponsor, President Pat Mitchell told a meeting of the Television Critics Association.

Exxon Mobil Corp., which had given "Masterpiece Theatre" \$300 million over 35 years as sole sponsor, will end its association with the program after this spring.

"I have no answer on why we haven't been able to attract an underwriter to replace Exxon Mobil,

except for the obvious answer it's a pretty high price tag," Mitchell said.

"We are all concerned and unhappy about it," she said, vowing the series will continue for the next two years "no matter what."

Upcoming "Masterpiece Theatre" programs include "Prime Suspect VI: The Last Witness," starring Helen Mirren, and "Forsyte Saga II."

Asked how PBS would pay for future shows in the costly series, Mitchell did not have an immediate answer.



Boohbah's are shown in this undated animated clip courtesy of PBS Kids. "Boohbah," the new PBS kids show, premieres Monday, Jan. 19, 2004. AP

"Masterpiece Theatre" executive producer Rebecca Eaton has said the series needs \$7 million a year. Last year, she blamed an ailing economy for the series' inability to woo a new sponsor.

In the past year, PBS has obtained 11 new major underwriting commitments from corporations, among them Coca-Cola, Mitchell said. She called it an endorsement of the value of PBS in a changing and crowded TV world.

Companies see PBS as "a trusted brand in a cluttered landscape and a way to be associated with a positive message that's not designed to make money" and that targets a broad audience, Mitchell said. (AP)

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Lewis and Clark museum exhibition to open in Mo.

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Seven years ago, the Missouri History Museum embarked on what would be the largest, most ambitious project in its 137-year history. The challenge: Assemble the largest collection of artifacts, documents and other materials from the Lewis and Clark expedition for an exhibit commemorating the 2004 bicentennial of their journey West.

The exhibition, which opens Wednesday in St. Louis and travels the country through 2006, features 500 rare and priceless objects that dispersed after the Corps of Discovery returned to St. Louis in 1806.

Among the most important: William Clark's elk skin field journal and rifle, a letter of credit President Thomas Jefferson wrote to Meriwether Lewis in July 1803, and a brass and wood telescope Lewis took on the trip.

The collection is so magnificent—its maps creased and coffee-stained, Lewis' don't-worry letter to his mother, a woodpecker specimen still intact and colorful—that Historical Society President Robert Archibald is surprised by the artifacts' durability.

"My God, this is real?" asked Archibald, who heads

both the state commission and national council on the Lewis and Clark bicentennial.

St. Louis was a good bet for undertaking the \$7 million project. The city was, after all, where Jefferson's two emissaries spent five months planning and shopping for the trip. Their charge: to explore and document the vast, newly acquired Louisiana Territory, establish trade contacts with the Indians, and traverse to the Pacific through an imagined water route.

Lewis, a reflective, literary man prone to what Jefferson called "melancholia," and Clark, an adept, take-charge commander, left on May 14, 1804, with an expedition of roughly 45 men on three boats just outside St. Louis, where the Mississippi and Missouri rivers meet.

The party, especially Lewis, would be radically changed by the wilderness immersion and assimilation into Indian culture and thinking.

The exhibit traces Lewis and Clark's physical and psychological journey, and tells the story from both the Indian and Euro-American's perspective. The project was guided by a national advisory committee of scholars and American Indians.



Moore

Jackson leasing Beverly Hills mansion

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Michael Jackson, who says he'll never live at his Neverland Ranch again, has found a \$20 million substitute.

The pop star is leasing a cliffside estate described as the

"crown jewel of Beverly Hills" with panoramic city views, according to veteran broker Elaine Young.

Jackson, who is facing child molestation charges, signed a one-year lease with a

one-year option to buy the mammoth three-story mansion, Young said. The listed lease price was \$100,000 a month, but it wasn't known what Jackson was paying.

Calls to his attorney Mark

Geragos weren't immediately returned Friday.

The self-described King of Pop said during a CBS-TV "60 Minutes" interview last month that Santa Barbara County sheriff's investigators searching Neverland Ranch in the Santa Ynez Valley so violated his privacy that it will never be the same for him.

"I won't live there ever again," he said. "It's a house now. It's not a home anymore. I'll only visit."

The 37,000-square-foot Beverly Hills estate, about 90 miles southeast of Neverland, was

built in 1991 on 2.25 acres. It is owned by a Japanese artist and has been on the market for \$20 million.

It has nine bedroom suites, 16 bathrooms, a north/south tennis court, a 3,600 square-foot ballroom/theater, an indoor swimming pool, an exercise room with sauna and steam room, a spa and a gourmet kitchen.

Jackson, 45, is charged with seven counts of performing lewd or lascivious acts upon a child under 14 and two counts of administering an intoxicating agent. He's free on \$3 million bail pending arraignment Jan. 16 in Santa Maria.

Moore won't pose for racy magazines

WASHINGTON (AP)—Mandy Moore posed for the cover of Cosmopolitan magazine - but don't look for anything racier.

"No. No men's magazines. ... No thank you," the 19-year-old star of "Chasing Liberty" told AP Radio in an interview. Moore plays a U.S. president's daughter who runs away during a diplomatic trip to Europe to escape the public eye.

"I was asked when I was 15 to start kind of doing those things. I think at this point now those sort of magazines know that it's not my cup of tea and I won't be doing them. But I was a little surprised at 15," Moore said.

There's also something else Moore won't do - tattoo her boyfriend's name on her body. "No. No names. I think that's the worst decision ever when getting a tattoo."



Osbourne

NEW YORK (AP)—Sharon Osbourne will be back on the air Monday as host of her syndicated talk show.

It will be her first appearance on "The Sharon Osbourne Show" since her husband, rocker Ozzy Osbourne, was injured in an all-terrain vehicle accident in England last month.

Osboune, 55, fractured his collarbone, eight ribs and a neck vertebra when the 600-pound vehicle he was riding flipped and landed on top of him at his estate in Buckinghamshire, southern England, on Dec. 8. He spent a week on a ventilator.

"We heard from Prince Charles and—never let anyone

say he's a bad guy 'cause he's all right by the Osbournes—he sent my husband a bottle of scotch, which of course he's not going to drink!" Osbourne tells the audience. Excerpts from the show were released Friday.

Monday's show will feature a tribute to Ozzy that chronicles the rocker's life

before and after the accident.

Meanwhile, MTV said "The Osbournes" reality series would return with five new episodes starting Tuesday, Jan. 27 (10:30 p.m. EST).

"Ozzy, Sharon, Jack and Kelly are back on MTV with all new adventures including Jack's 18th birthday, a trip to the tattoo parlor for some family members, a whole slew of new dogs and cats, massive new construction on the Beverly Hills house, and much, much more," the cable channel said Friday.

Osbourne has canceled his upcoming 20-date tour of Britain to give him time to recover fully from his accident.

cuc leadman

cuc systems

cda

micronesian

mva

Woman's small-claim case becomes big family quarrel

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY: I received a small settlement because of an injury. My stepdaughter, who works as a teller at my bank, asked if she could borrow \$300. I agreed. She took \$400 instead and promised to pay me back out of her income tax refund.

Over the next several months, without my consent, she transferred \$2,000 from my account to hers. She always had an excuse and promised to repay me.

After a year and a half, I told her if she didn't arrange to pay me back, I would have to take her to court. She and her husband stopped talking to my husband and me, so I filed a claim.

To my amazement, I was invited to present my case on television in a courtroom show.

Well, my husband refuses to go with me. He agrees that I am right, but he will not publicly take my side against his own daughter.

Abby, I need his support. He's the only witness I have. I didn't want things to turn out this way, but they did. What do you think?

FOOL FOR FAMILY

DEAR FOOL FOR FAMILY: What happened to you was criminal, and frankly, it should have been reported to the police in the first place. Your husband's daughter is an embezzler, and she certainly shouldn't be working in a bank. Now it's time to get a lawyer involved.

Since your husband appears to be camera-shy, ask your lawyer if there's a judge who will hear the case without a camera present. If your husband still refuses to support you, call your local district attorney's office and ask if you can get a victim's advocate to go with you. You have my sympathy.

DEAR ABBY: What is up with all these unfortunate women who have out-of-wedlock pregnancies and bad relationships? Most men don't have these problems and don't mention them if they do.

To these women: If you'd get to know your partners and a little about their past, stuff like this wouldn't happen.

Women are like fish. If you have the right bait, they are easy to lure in. Once you've sampled the goods, then you throw them back.

I'm not saying I'm like this, but I have seen it. If the fish were smart enough to see the hook, then they wouldn't get caught! So, Dear Abby, please tell me why some women think they are so smart?

P.S. By the way, I'm in the ninth grade.

FISHERMAN IN NEWARK, DEL.

DEAR FISHERMAN: Woman aren't fish, and it isn't a question of intelligence. When people of either sex become emotional about a love interest, they often think with their hearts and not their heads. Have you heard the old saying, "Love is blind"? It's the reason the phrase was coined.

DEAR ABBY: There's an uproar at our office concerning potlucks. Is it acceptable for people who don't contribute to the luncheons to help themselves when the food is served? Some of them even fill a plate to take home! Isn't this inconsiderate and rude?

POTLUCKS

DEAR POTLUCKS: For someone to knowingly help him- or herself to other people's food without it being offered is not only rude but also presumptuous. I'd say shame on them, but people who do it are shameless.

Perhaps when the announcement of the potluck is issued, it should be clearly stated or written that in order to participate, a person must bring a dish.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)



Dear Abby

Sean Combs to attend hip-hop event

HOUSTON (AP)—Sean "P. Diddy" Combs, Busta Rhymes, Erykah Badu and Lil' Romeo are expected to attend a Jan. 31 event at Texas Southern University sponsored by the Hip-Hop Summit Action Network.

The artists will lead discussions about the hip-hop

industry, the importance of voting and other issues such as the spread of HIV and AIDS.

Admission is free, but attendees must register to vote to get a ticket. Organizers hope the event will draw 10,000 people, the Houston Chronicle reported Friday.

The Houston summit will be

followed by similar voter registration and community awareness drives in cities nationwide.

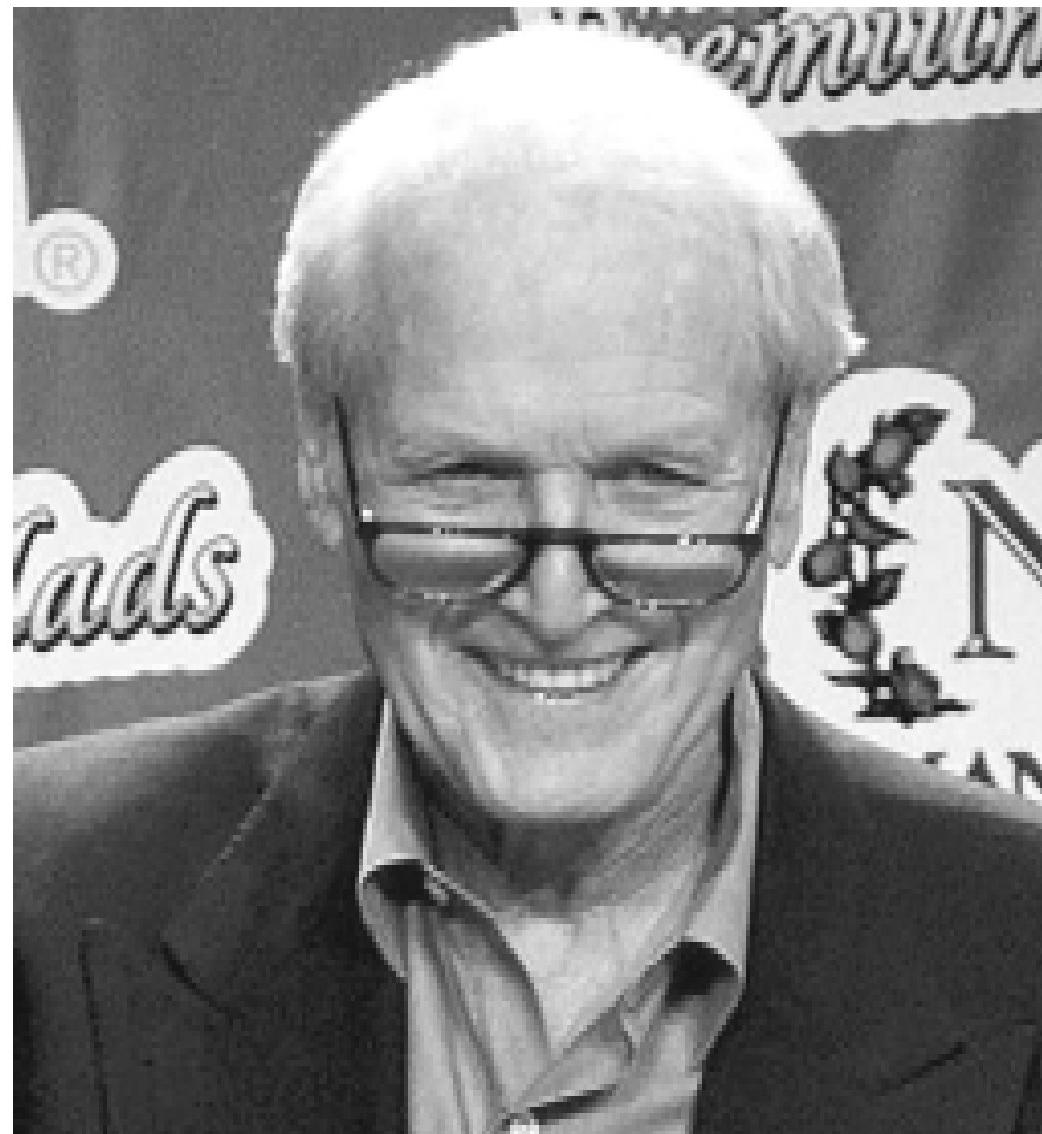
"Houston is emerging as a major international hub for hip-hop music and culture," said Benjamin Chavis, executive director of the Hip-Hop Summit Action Network. "We know what we do on that

Saturday before the Super Bowl is going to have a long-term impact."

Houston hosts the Super Bowl on Feb. 1.

A hip-hop summit in Philadelphia registered 11,000 new voters last summer and an April event in Detroit drew 17,000 participants.

Paul Newman donates \$10,000 for Maine trails



Paul Newman president and founder of Newman's Own, Inc., is seen at the McDonald's Times Square restaurant in New York, in this March 10, 2003 file photo.

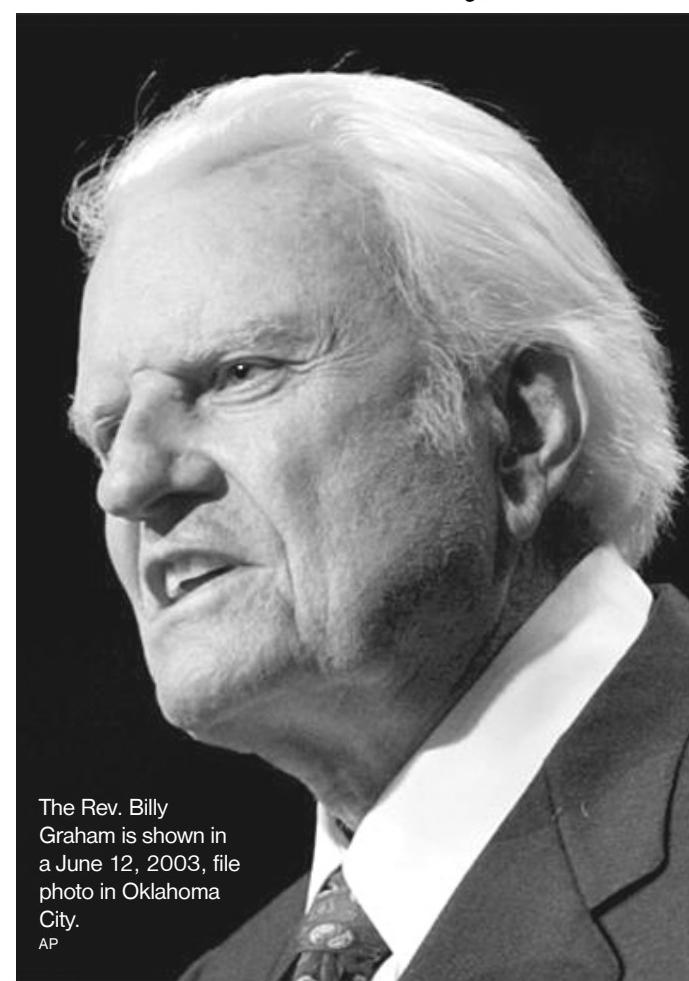
Billy Graham to hold Kansas City crusade

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Evangelist Billy Graham, who's recovering from partial hip replacement surgery this week, will hold a crusade at Arrowhead Stadium.

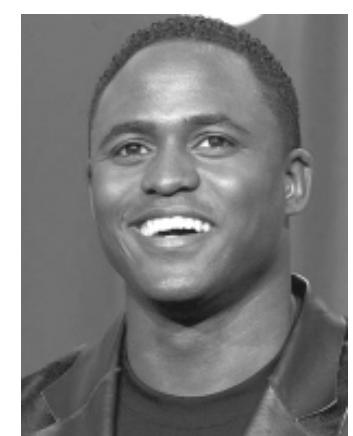
Graham sent word that he's accepted an invitation for the June 17-20 Kansas City appearance in a letter read to local pastors at a meeting Thursday.

"I never expected to still be preaching at the age of 85, and yet my call to proclaim the Gospel is as strong as ever," he wrote. "For the past two years the Lord has given me a burden for Kansas City and the 'Heart of America.' Health permitting, I am honored to join hands with area pastors and churches to proclaim the Good News of the Gospel."

Larry Turner, vice president of Billy Graham crusades, said preparation for the event will involve churches from Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, Arkansas and Oklahoma. The Kansas City crusade is one of two major campaigns that Graham plans this year, with the other to be announced next month.



The Rev. Billy Graham is shown in a June 12, 2003, file photo in Oklahoma City.



Comedian Wayne Brady is seen at the 52nd Annual Primetime Emmy Awards at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles, in this Sept. 10, 2000 file photo.

'Wayne Brady Show' won't get third season

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"The Wayne Brady Show" won't be back for a third season because of low ratings, Buena Vista Television has announced.

The syndicated show remains in production and will air through May.

The comedian won best talk show host and "The Wayne Brady Show" tied for best talk show with "The View" at last May's Daytime Emmy Awards.

Brady also received a Prime-time Emmy last September for his work in ABC's improv show "Whose Line Is It Anyway?"

Pastimes

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEM. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ABOUT ACORNS Solution: 7 letters

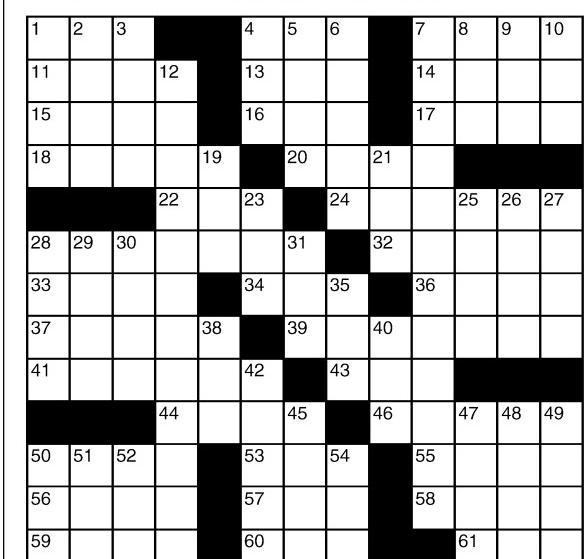
E	P	A	H	S	F	A	R	M	T	H	S	U	R	C
O	L	A	V	O	M	R	E	H	T	A	G	E	H	S
A	L	K	T	A	A	K	U	E	G	R	N	I	S	T
S	E	E	S	R	E	R	G	I	O	N	P	N	C	U
T	E	S	R	R	T	A	D	O	T	M	I	E	I	N
C	R	E	N	R	R	S	V	E	U	N	L	W	H	N
E	T	E	O	I	E	E	N	R	L	A	T	O	O	O
S	L	S	T	S	I	U	K	R	O	E	G	L	Y	S
N	N	S	E	A	H	T	Q	C	O	N	Y	L	P	A
I	W	A	A	V	G	E	A	S	E	F	P	A	E	E
Y	O	C	N	E	R	F	L	R	B	P	H	B	L	S
I	R	O	N	H	O	A	T	L	U	T	D	U	⑥	K
E	B	R	U	R	U	S	H	S	R	T	P	O	⑦	L
L	T	N	A	D	N	U	B	A	Y	U	A	O	⑧	A
D	T	Y	L	C	D	S	E	I	C	E	P	S	⑨	W

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Abundant, Acorn, Amass, Annual, Ball, Brown, Bury, Carry, Chipmunk, Collect, Crush, Cupule, Earth, Farm, Foray, Forest, Hunt, Gather, Groove, Ground, Grow, Harvest, Hobbit, Hunt, Insects, Insect, Kernel, Layover, Nibble, Plant, Pork, Saturday, Save, Season, Sharp, Shell, Sowing, Species, Squirrel, Storage, Strength, Supply, Tannin, Tree, Use, Walks, Woodpecker, Yield.
Last Saturday's Answer: Quicksand
NOTE: Postage and handling charges have changed for The Collected Wonderword. Add \$3 to the first book ordered, \$1 more for each additional book. Volume 17 is \$18 and \$5.95 each; payables to Universal Press Syndicate. Send to WONDERWORD, P.O. Box 323, Mar St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call toll-free, 1-800-255-6734, ext. 8615.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	36	Caspian	61	Old	12	Mexico
1	Ritz	auto	Sea	card	and points	south
4	Limb	feeder	game			
7	—back	(mellow)	37	Appears	19	Erstwhile
11	Tackle-	box item	39	to be	21	acorn
13	Feathery	accessory	41	Mechan-	23	Petrol
14	Wheel-	ic's task	43	ic's task	"Little	Women"
15	base	Scrutinize	44	Mess up	sister	
16	terminus	46	Pilfered	2	Carte	25
17	—partridge	50	African	3	Becomes	Pivot
18	in ..."	53	gully	one	26	Money of
19	Massa-	"Believe It	Or —!"	4	Jennings'	Oman
20	chusetts	55	For all	5	employer	27
21	cape	56	time	6	Leeway	With
22	He got	57	Grand-	7	brothel's	skill
23	the point	58	scale	8	keeper	28
24	across to	59	tale	9	Artsy	Woody
25	his son	60	Fast-run-	10	area of	fiber
26	Vigorous	4-Across	ning bird	11	Paris	29
27	enthusias-	counter-	Pealed	12	Stead	Indian
28	asm	part	Sicilian	13	Ocean	Ocean
29	Creche		spouter	14	gulf	gulf
30	trio			15	31	AAA
31	Cartesian			16	assignment	assignment
32	conclu-			17	35	Fawn's
33	sion			18	mom	mom
34	Om, e.g.			19	38	Seek
35	Linus'			20	restitution	restitution
36	calmer			21	40	“—
37	Small			22	42	Doubtfire"
38	fire-			23	43	"Cross-
39	cracker			24	44	fire"
40	Verdi			25	45	group
41	opera			26	46	Cupola
42	"Joan of			27	47	47
43	Arcadia"			28	48	Ellipse
44	figure			29	49	Comic
				30	50	Jay
				31	51	Therefore
				32	52	Teensy
				33	53	Likely
				34	54	52
				35	55	Cacophony
				36	56	Yank
				37	57	
				38	58	
				39	59	
				40	60	
				41	61	

Saturday's answer 1-12



For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5951, 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

STUMPED?

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By Brian Basset

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY

Andrew Lawrence, Kirstie Alley, Howard Stern, Rush Limbaugh

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: You may be inclined to take on too much this year. Instead, focus on what you do best and don't travel outside your realm of possibility. Being smart about your future and refraining from being impulsive will be the key. Your numbers are 2, 10, 13, 22, 31, 40

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ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Lots can be accomplished today, especially with job prospects. Going for an interview or talking to someone who can help you find a better position will bring positive results. ☀☀☀

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Love and romance will probably be on your mind today. Decide what you really want and pursue it. Creative projects should not be pushed aside. Physical enhancement will bring positive results. ☀☀☀☀

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

Your restlessness will get the better of you today. Don't make changes that are not in your best interest. Real estate and investment opportunities are present. ☀☀

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

It's time to straighten out the misconceptions people have about who you are and what you want to do. Voice your thoughts and you will get the support and help you need. ☀☀☀

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

Business enterprise should be your concern. Look for a better position or advancement where you already work. Expand your interests. ☀☀

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

You may not have your usual practical outlook today. Proceed with caution. You might want to reconsider your job position as well as your personal situation. ☀☀

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Take every opportunity to straighten out matters that involve government agencies, banks or other institutions. Talk to an adviser regarding your financial situation. Home improvement projects can be started today. ☀☀

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Partnerships can be formed that will enable you to accomplish your goals. Opportunities to meet new people will lead to new friendships. Love should be on your mind. ☀☀☀

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

You may find yourself caught in an emotional whirlwind. You don't like personal confrontations, but it's best to face your dilemma head-on. ☀☀

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Your ability to put things into perspective and to offer excellent solutions will put you into the spotlight at any group meeting you attend. Talk and travel will be the two main concerns of your day. ☀☀☀☀

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

You will have all sorts of moneymaking opportunities today, but the possibility of picking the wrong deal is evident. Don't think that big is best. Take the more conservative deal. ☀☀

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

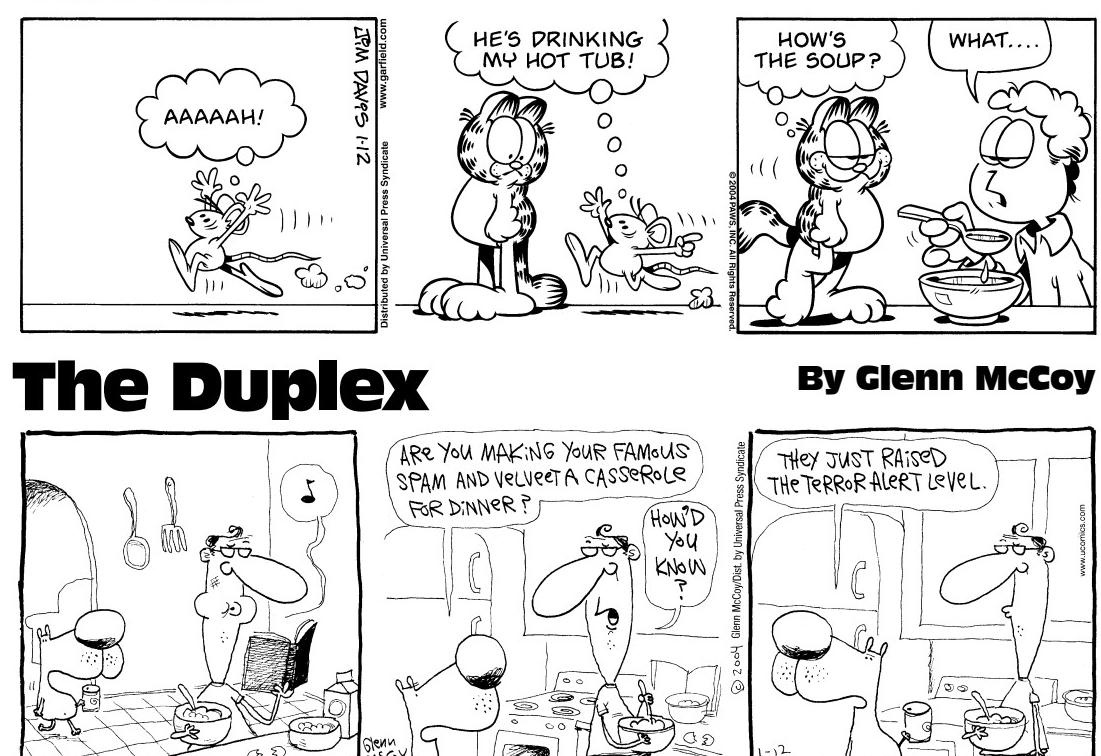
Don't fret about ongoing problems. Instead, start talking about what you need to have happen to make an important union work better. ☀☀

BIRTHDAY BABY: You are intent on following your own path regardless of the consequences. You are difficult to keep up with. You question everything and everyone and are always in pursuit of knowledge.

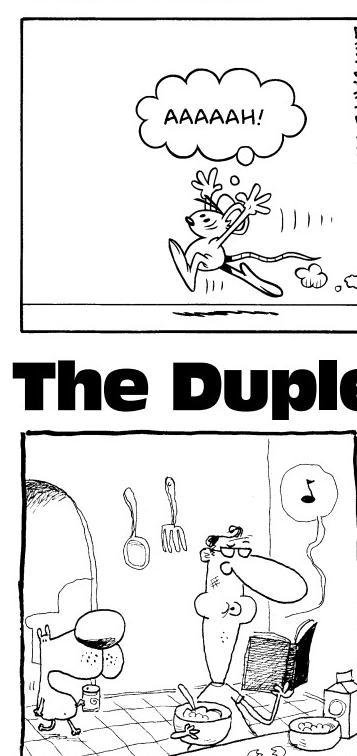
(Need advice? Check out Eugenia on the Web at www.astroadvice.com or www.eugenialast.com.)

Garfield®

by Jim Davis



By Glenn McCoy



By Glenn McCoy

Team Standings		
Group A		
SIP-Verizon	4	0
Bayani	2	2
SMF	2	2
CCA	2	2
MDX	0	4
Group B		
Visminda	4	1
Cabalen	4	1
Mobil-LIPS	4	1
Bicol	1	3
MIFICPA	1	3
Samahang Laguna	0	5



Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	T
Yankees	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	1	7
Academy	0	0	2	0	1	1	1	2	1	8

SPORTS BRIEFS

Trail Blazers defeat the Lakers, 112-108

By ANNE M. PETERSON
AP SPORTS WRITER

PORLAND, Ore. (AP) — Damon Stoudamire hit two 3-pointers in the final minutes and the Portland Trail Blazers handed the Los Angeles Lakers their second loss in two nights with a 112-108 victory Saturday night.

Stoudamire finished with 25 points and eight assists for the Trail Blazers, who returned home to snap a three-game losing streak.

After Kobe Bryant's layup evened it at 99, Rasheed Wallace hit a pair of free throws to put the Blazers ahead, and Zach Randolph hit an 8-foot jumper to make it 103-99.

Shaquille O'Neal's layup narrowed it for the Lakers, but Stoudamire's 3-pointer put the Blazers ahead 106-101 with 2:08 left.

Stoudamire hit another one to put the Blazers up 109-104 but a pair of foul shots kept the Lakers in it until Wallace's jumper bounced several times before falling to make it 111-106 and Portland held on for the final margin.

Wallace, who stirred controversy with a contentious interview earlier in the week, had 28 points and seven rebounds to help Portland improve to 11-4 at home.

The night before, the Lakers fell to the Dallas Mavericks 110-93, their first loss at home in 13 games this season. The loss to Dallas snapped a 10-game overall winning streak.

Bryant led the Lakers with 35 points, and O'Neal had 22 points and 10 rebounds.

The Blazers, who led by as many as 10, jumped out to an early 13-6 lead on Randolph's

layup. Los Angeles narrowed it to 19-18 on Karl Malone's jumper, but Portland responded with Wallace's 3-pointer and Dale Davis' dunk.

After the Blazers took a 47-37 lead on Stoudamire's 3-pointer, the Lakers went on a 12-2 run to even it at 49, and the teams were even at 54 at halftime.

Bryant, who did not even take a shot in the first quarter, scored 11 points in the second.

The Lakers went up 70-67 on O'Neal's consecutive dunks, and led by as many as five points - but the Blazers kept it close and the two teams went on to trade the lead nine times in the third quarter.

Randolph had 24 points and 11 rebounds for Portland.

Wallace received a number of boos from the home fans when he was introduced before the game.

Wallace charged in an interview earlier in the week that the NBA's white establishment is exploiting young black athletes to enrich itself. He also used objectionable language.

There was widespread criticism of the comments, including a statement from NBA commissioner David Stern. Wallace issued an apology before the game, saying he regretted using the objectionable language but stood by his right to express his opinions.

Knicks 95, Nuggets 88

At New York, Antonio McDyess scored a season-high 15 points against the team that traded him nearly 18 months ago, leading the New York Knicks past the Denver Nuggets 95-88 to snap a six-game losing streak.

McDyess made his first start since March of 2002, replacing Kurt Thomas (sore knee) on New York's front line.



AP
Portland Trail Blazers Damon Stoudamire shoots for two during the second half of their game with the Los Angeles Lakers Saturday, Dec. 13, 2003, in Portland, Ore.

Carmelo Anthony led Denver with 25 points, and Marcus Camby added 12 points and 12 rebounds in his first appearance at Madison Square Garden since the Knicks sent him to Denver as part of the five-player trade that brought McDyess to New York.

Clippers 106, Suns 91

At Los Angeles, Quentin Richardson scored 25 points and Corey Maggette had 23 in the Los Angeles Clippers' 106-91

victory over Phoenix, the Suns' fifth straight loss.

Stephon Marbury had 30 points, nine assists and seven rebounds for the Suns.

Spurs 86, Rockets 73

At San Antonio, Manu Ginobili scored 16 points and Tony Parker had 14 points and 12 assists to help San Antonio beat Houston for the second time in three days, 86-73.

Steve Francis paced Houston with 17 points, 13 of them in the

second half. Yao Ming and Jim Jackson each had 11 points.

Bulls 86, Pacers 75

At Chicago, Jamal Crawford and Kirk Hinrich scored 18 points apiece and the Chicago Bulls used a 16-0 third-quarter run to beat the Indiana Pacers 86-75.

Indiana, tied for the most road wins in the NBA with nine, got 23 points from Ron Artest, including the Pacers' first 10 in a 15-point fourth quarter.

Grizzlies 110, Nets 63

At Memphis, Tenn., Bonzi Wells had 22 points in the Memphis Grizzlies' most lopsided victory in franchise history, a 110-63 victory over the New Jersey Nets.

Memphis had six players in double figures, including Mike Miller and Swift with 18 each. Miller also had seven assists.

Pau Gasol had 12 points and nine rebounds, and Lorenzen Wright and Earl Watson had 10 points each.

Kenyon Martin led New Jersey with 12 points. Aaron Williams and Jason Kidd, with 4-of-14 shooting, had 10 points each.

Celtics 105, Cavaliers 98

At Cleveland, Paul Pierce scored a season-high 41 points and stole the ball from LeBron James in the final minute to help the Boston Celtics win their fifth straight game, 105-98 over the Cleveland Cavaliers.

James scored a season-high 37 points, but Cleveland's rookie star missed a 3-pointer in the last two minutes and was stripped by Pierce with 15 seconds to go.

Magic 105, Hawks 102

At Atlanta, Tracy McGrady capped a late rally with a 20-foot jumper, giving the Orlando Magic a 105-102 victory over

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	12	11	.522	-
Boston	12	12	.500	1/2
New Jersey	11	12	.478	1
New York	8	16	.333	4 1/2
Miami	7	15	.318	4 1/2
Washington	7	15	.318	4 1/2
Orlando	4	20	.167	8 1/2

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	18	6	.750	-
New Orleans	17	7	.708	1
Toronto	13	9	.591	4
Detroit	14	10	.583	4
Milwaukee	11	12	.478	6 1/2
Atlanta	7	18	.280	11 1/2
Chicago	6	16	.273	11
Cleveland	6	17	.261	11 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Dallas	14	8	.636	-
Denver	14	9	.609	1/2
San Antonio	15	10	.600	1/2
Houston	13	9	.591	1
Memphis	13	9	.591	1
Minnesota	13	9	.591	1
Utah	12	10	.545	2

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	18	5	.783	-
Sacramento	15	5	.750	1 1/2
Portland	11	10	.524	6
Seattle	10	10	.500	6 1/2
Golden State	10	11	.476	7
L.A. Clippers	8	11	.421	8
Phoenix	8	15	.348	10

By the Associated Press

the Atlanta Hawks.

Shammond Williams finished off the comeback with a steal and five free throws, helping the Magic win for the third time in four games after losing 19 straight. McGrady had 30 points.

Shareef Abdur-Rahim had 25 for the Hawks, who have lost seven of their last eight games. Stephen Jackson added 20 points and Dion Glover had 19.

Wallace apologizes for interview language

By ANNE M. PETERSON
AP SPORTS WRITER

PORLAND, Ore. (AP) — Portland Trail Blazers forward Rasheed Wallace apologized Saturday for using objectionable language in an interview in which he criticized the NBA's "white establishment."

"I made a few comments that some people found objectionable," Wallace said in a statement. "Like everyone, I have a right to express an opinion, which I did."

"But, I regret using street language to express my opinion because everyone has focused on these few comments when I said other things. It was not my intent to offend anyone."

Wallace's statement, issued before the Blazers' game against the Los Angeles Lakers, was punctuated by his apology.

"So, if I offended any of my

teammates, fellow NBA players, the Trail Blazer fans and organization, I apologize," he said. "I have nothing more to say about this matter."

On Friday, NBA commissioner David Stern called Wallace's comments to The Oregonian newspaper "ignorant and offensive to all NBA players," Stern said. "I refuse to enhance his heightened sense of deprivation by publicly debating with him."

"Since Mr. Wallace did not direct his comments at any particular individuals other than me, I think it best to leave it to the Trail Blazers' organization and its players and fans to determine the attitudes by which they wish to be defined."

Wallace, in his eighth year with Portland, is set to earn nearly \$17 million this season. He is averaging 16.4 points and 7.3 rebounds.

Last season, Wallace was suspended by the league for seven games for threatening an official on the loading dock at the Rose Garden Arena after a game.

Some of Wallace's comments included objectionable language.

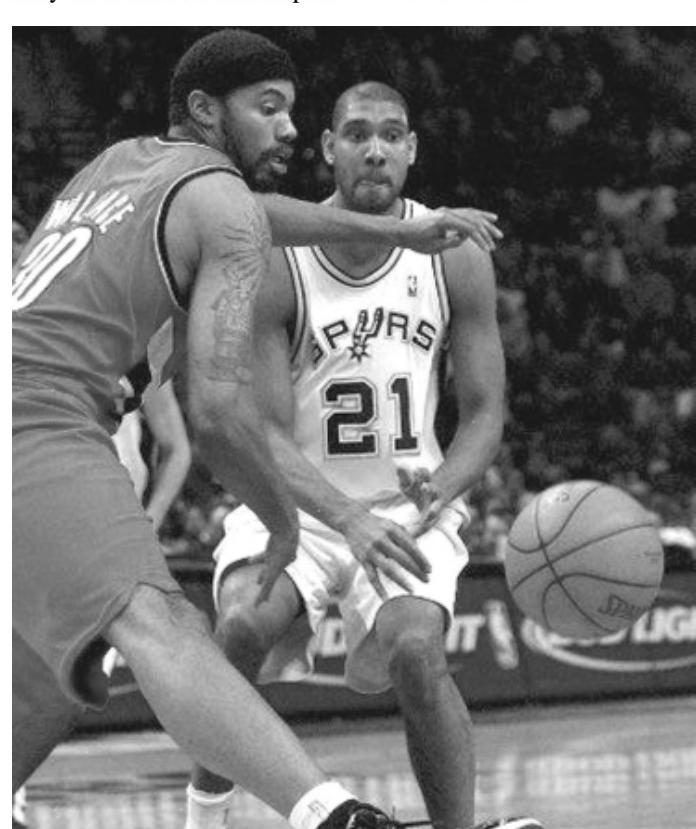
"Mr. Wallace's hateful diatribe was ignorant and offensive to all NBA players,"

Stern said. "I refuse to enhance his heightened sense of deprivation by publicly debating with him."

"I agree with the commissioner that there is no reason to continue the public debate on this issue," Blazers president Steve Patterson said.

Lakers coach Phil Jackson said that as a former player, he understands the idea of questioning authority, but said Wallace hurt himself by injecting race into the issue.

"It's not about the money, it's about the little things that go with the job that I think gets to some of the players," Jackson said.



AP
Portland Trail Blazers forward Rasheed Wallace (30) tries to block a pass by San Antonio Spurs forward Tim Duncan (21) during the second quarter in San Antonio, Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2003.

Okla. QB Jason White wins Heisman Trophy

By JOSH DUBOW
AP SPORTS WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Jason White capped a remarkable comeback with college football's most prestigious award, winning the Heisman Trophy on Saturday night a year after an injury nearly ended his career.

The Oklahoma quarterback, who almost quit football following his second major knee injury in September 2002, beat out Pittsburgh receiver Larry Fitzgerald by 128 points for the award.

"Last year about this time, I was sitting at home watching the Heisman and thought how neat it would be to be there, to be one of the finalists," White said. "I never thought, after two surgeries, that I'd be here."

White threw 40 touchdown passes and led the third-ranked Sooners to 12 straight wins to open the season and a spot in the Bowl Championship Series title game against No. 2 LSU.

Even a subpar performance in a loss in the Big 12 title game last week against Kansas State couldn't stop White from winning the award. His three months of brilliance before that were more than enough to persuade voters to pick him.

White, The Associated Press Player of the Year, led the nation in passing efficiency, completing 64 percent of his passes for 3,744 yards and only eight interceptions.

White beat Fitzgerald 1,481-1,353. Eli Manning was third with 710 points and Chris Perry was next with 341.

Voters list three choices on their ballots, and players are awarded three points for first place, two for second and one for third.

White, the first Oklahoma player

since Billy Sims in 1978 to win the Heisman, had 319 first-place votes, 204 seconds and 116 thirds.

Fitzgerald, who set an NCAA record with touchdown catches in 18 straight games, had 253 firsts, 233 seconds and 128 thirds. He was trying to become the first sophomore to win the award.

Manning became the third member of his family to come close but fall short for the Heisman. His father, Archie, finished fourth in 1969 and third the following year, while older brother, Peyton, came in second in 1997.

Manning, who passed for 3,341 yards with 27 touchdowns this season, had 95 firsts, 132 seconds and 161 thirds.

Perry, who was fifth in the nation with 132.4 yards rushing per game and also scored 19 touchdowns, came in fourth with 27 firsts, 66 seconds and 128 thirds.

Three of the four finalists struggled with their conference titles on the line, with only Perry delivering in a 204-yard, two-TD game in a 35-21 victory against Ohio State.

Just as one bad game didn't stop Oklahoma from making it to the Sugar Bowl, it also didn't stop White, who was helped by the 50 percent of voters who cast their ballots before that game. Fitzgerald got the most points from people who voted in the final week, but it wasn't enough to catch White.

White became the fourth Sooner to win the Heisman, joining Sims, Steve Owens (1969) and Billy Vessels (1952). Sims was sitting with his former coach, Barry Switzer, in the audience and yelled encouragement to White as he walked up to accept the award.

White is hoping to become the third quarterback to win the Heisman and the national title in the same season, joining Florida State's Charlie Ward (1993) and

Florida's Danny Wuerffel (1996).

Recent Heisman-winning quarterbacks haven't fared so well, with Florida State's Chris Weinke (2000) and Nebraska's Eric Crouch (2001) both following up their Heisman wins with subpar title-game performances.

Kansas State running back Darren Sproles was fifth, followed by Southern California quarterback Matt Leinart, North Carolina State quarterback Philip Rivers, USC receiver Mike Williams, Miami of Ohio quarterback Ben Roethlisberger and Texas Tech quarterback B.J. Symons.

A regional voting breakdown had White winning the Far West, Southwest and South regions. Fitzgerald won the Midwest, Northeast and Mid-Atlantic.

The award completes an amazing transformation that began on Sept. 7, 2002, when White crumpled to the turf against Alabama with a torn right knee ligament. He had injured the same ligament on the other knee a year earlier and contemplated quitting the sport he loves.

His father persuaded him not to give up and White soon began the hard road back.

"I wanted to be back on the field with my teammates," White said. "For a while, it didn't seem like it would happen."

Hours of rehab finally paid off when coach Bob Stoops told White he won a four-way competition for the job before the start of fall practice.

In a season where remaining healthy and keeping the starting job would have been a great accomplishment, White did so much more.

The small-town kid from Tuttle, Okla., quickly answered all those questions. Performing in stadiums with nearly 20 times as many fans as live in his home town, displayed the poise and



AP
Oklahoma's quarterback Jason White (18) passes in the first quarter against Texas Tech in Lubbock, Texas, in this Nov. 22, 2003 photo. White won the 2003 Heisman Trophy, awarded Saturday, Dec. 13, 2003 in New York.

touch necessary to turn Oklahoma into a record-setting offense.

least 50 points seven times this season.

"His emergence as a great, great football player is the story of college football," Stoops said. "The biggest difference in our team is that Jason White is the quarterback. It ought to be pretty obvious."

It turned out it was to the Heisman voters.

Red Sox sign Keith Foulke; Yanks get RHP Kevin Brown

By BEN WALKER
AP BASEBALL WRITER

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—The Boston Red Sox revved-up the AL East arms race by closing a deal for All-Star closer Keith Foulke on Saturday, hours before the New York Yankees completed their trade for Kevin Brown.

In a flurry of activity at the winter meetings, outfielders Mike Cameron, J.D. Drew and Juan Encarnacion found new homes.

Roger Clemens just may have one, too. In town for a function, he left open the possibility of coming out of retirement to pitch for the Houston Astros.

Cameron personally came to the fringe of the French Quarter this week, hoping to get a deal done. The free agent found one with the New York Mets.

The Yankees finalized their swap with Los Angeles, getting Brown for Jeff Weaver and two other players.

"To walk into a clubhouse that's going to be filled with people who have such a great history of playing winning ball, it's a great opportunity for me at the end of my career," Brown said.

Atlanta filled its need for a right fielder by obtaining Drew in a five-player trade with St. Louis. Desperate for hitters, Los Angeles acquired Encarnacion from Florida.



AP
American League pitcher Keith Foulke of the Oakland Athletics delivers in the ninth inning of the 74th annual All Star game, Tuesday, July 15, 2003, at U.S. Cellular Field in Chicago.

the contract after taking a physical.

"We acquired Keith Foulke not because he's a closer, but because we believe he's one of the best pitchers in baseball," Red Sox general manager Theo Epstein said.

Foulke joins starter Curt Schilling as top pitchers acquired by the Red Sox since the season ended. Boston also is talking about getting AL MVP Alex

Rodriguez from Texas in a trade for Manny Ramirez.

"It was a solid team before they added Curt Schilling. That really showed their commitment to winning," Foulke said.

The 31-year-old righty was 9-1 with a 2.08 ERA for Oakland last season.

The Red Sox haven't won the World Series since 1918, with the Yankees often getting in the way. Since losing in this year's Series, the Yankees have traded for pitchers Javier Vazquez and Brown.

The Yankees also lost Andy Pettitte to Houston, and there remains a chance that Clemens might join him to pitch for the hometown Astros.

The Rocket was in New Orleans for a banquet and said that while he still considers himself retired, he's at least thinking about playing for Houston.

"I know Roger has told me he was retiring. That was our understanding," Yankees GM Brian Cashman said. "But I also understand he's a human being. We all have a chance to change our minds and that's life."

In a deal that's been brewing, the Yankees got Brown for Weaver, minor league pitcher Yhency Brazoban and a player to be named. Brown, 38, is a six-time All-Star.

After letting loose Gary Sheffield - who is close to going to the Yankees, too - the Braves wanted a right fielder with a good bat. They hope they found

one in Drew, getting him with all-purpose player Eli Marrero from St. Louis for pitchers Jason Marquis, Adam Wainwright and Ray King.

"Adam is our No. 1 pitching prospect and that was tough to do, but under the circumstances we had no choice," Atlanta GM John Schuerholz said.

Drew, 28, has been full of promise since becoming the fifth pick of the 1998 draft. But he's been hurt a lot, going on the disabled list five times in the last four years.

Drew hit .289 last season with 15 homers and 42 RBIs in 100 games.

"He's been a guy that has been touted with all kinds of talent through the years," Braves manager Bobby Cox said. "Unfortunately, he's had all kinds of injuries."

Cameron reached agreement with the Mets on a three-year deal for \$19.5 million. The former Gold Glove center fielder must pass a physical before the deal is done.

The Dodgers were eager to add offense after scoring a major league-low 574 runs last season. Encarnacion, 27, joined catcher Ivan Rodriguez, first baseman Derrek Lee and closer Ugueth Urbina as players to leave the Marlins since they won the title.

Encarnacion hit .270 with 19 home runs and 94 RBIs last season. He had a team-high 37 doubles and also stole 19 bases. He hasn't made an error in his last 220 games.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Table tennis singles tourney tomorrow

The Marianas Amateur Table Tennis Association is inviting the public to join the 2004 MATTA Open Singles Table Tennis Tournament.

The tournament will begin tomorrow and will continue throughout the rest of the month. It will be held Tuesday and Thursday nights at the multi-purpose room of the Gilbert C. Ada Ada Gymnasium.

The tournament format will be round-robin type of competition for the initial round where each participant will play all the other members of their division once.

Those who win the most games will move on to the elimination phase and playoffs.

Admission fee for the tournament will be \$10 per participant. Trophies will be presented to the winners of their respective divisions during an after-tournament dinner.

Children who wish to participate should inform their parents and ask for their consent. For more information please call Steve Lim at 483-7842.

21st Island Relay set for Dec. 28

Officials of the 21st Annual Christmas Island Relay announced that this year's 13.7-mile team event is set to take place during the early morning hours of December 28.

The starting point of the course will be at the Pacific Islands Club south parking lot. Participants will then head north and work their way to the finish line at the Last Command Post in Marpi.

Interested teams may register at the starting point of the race, which will be at the Pacific Islands Club south parking lot in San Antonio. Registration begins at 5:15am.

Each team, which consists of five members, must switch runners every mile. It is also required that each team has at least one female participant or a participant who is under the age of 16 or in the senior division. Prior to competing, all teams must pay a fee of \$25.

For more information about the 21st Annual Christmas Island Relay, please contact Elias Rangamar at 234-1001 or 1002.

Budweiser Cup on Jan. 12

Officials of the much-awaited Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands Budweiser Cup have decided to push back the kick off date of the 2003 island-wide men's basketball season to January 12 of next year.

So far, 10 teams have shown interest in participating in the league. Only eight, however, are confirmed to battle for the championship crown and the \$1,000 grand prize that goes along with it. Also at stake are the \$300 prize for the runner-up and the \$200 award for the second runner-up.

Each team interested in taking part in the season is required to pay an entrance fee of \$900 that must be payable to BANMI.

Aside from the prizes awarded to the top three finishers, other prizes may be claimed through a half-court shot competition and a three-point contest.

For more information, please contact Rangamar at 664-2500 or Abner Venus at 234-5911.

SPG Council launches logo contest

The South Pacific Games Council Executive Board has announced that it will be selecting a new logo for the SPG Council. The winning logo will be selected from designs submitted through the national sports federations represented on the Council.

The contest is open to everyone. The general public is invited to submit design proposals. The Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association will select one or more of the designs submitted to it, for transmission to the SPG Council.

All entries should be submitted to NMASA President Michael A. White. The selection of a new design will take place at the SPG Council assembly in Palau next year.

For further information, please contact White at telephone 234-6547.

IT'S CABALEN

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fouling out.

In the first game, the UFO All-Stars finally notched a win after beating Bicol Express-RNV Construction 53-44.

First Game

UFO All-Stars 53—Mendiola 20, Malasarte 13, Pardinan 10, Gatdula 6, Canedo 4.

Bicol-RNV Construction 44—Jugos 15, Aldan 10, Abadilla 6,

Lopez 6, Miday 5, Mumar 2.

Second Game

Cabalen-RP Construction

121—Mendoza 25, Delos Reyes 35, Ocampo 13, Alipio 12, Arnedo 12, Jo. Gatdula 6, Magcalas 5, Sinca 3, Barbo 2.

SIP-Verizon 103—R. Alegre 19, Mendoza 18, Guiab 14, Factor 13, Rapanut 13, Villacrusis 9, T. Alegre 7, Tamondong 5, Flores 3, Garcia 2.

Scoring by quarters: 24-27, 59-50, 90-79, 121-103.

Sequioco tops Tuesday pool

By MARK RABAGO
REPORTER



Boyet Sequioco put together another perfect run last Tuesday to win the Round Two 8-Ball Fun Tournament that evening at the pioneering sports bar.

The Olongapo, Zambales native triumphed three straight times after getting a bye in the opening round then turned back a courageous effort by Ike Celis to win the Tuesday 8-ball plum.

Sequioco first victimized Cherish Reyes in the second round before getting the better of Celis in the next round. He then slammed perennial pool winner Manny Mariano in the winners' bracket final to secure the first finals berth and the all-important twice-to-beat advantage.

Celis, for his part, had to work double time after being relegated to losers' bracket play by the crafty Sequioco.

The silver-haired Celis rebounded quickly and nicely by first beating Round Two owner Don Pangelinan. He then eliminated top lady player Rosemarie Moses-Arnold before moving on to the losers' bracket final opposite Mariano.

The outing against Mariano was where Celis truly shone, as the veteran pool player shocked the Filipino cue artist and



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left: Third place Manny Mariano, Round Two 8-Ball Fun Tournament champion Boyet Sequioco, and runner-up Ike Celis.

arranged a championship round meeting with third round conqueror Sequioco.

Unfortunately for Celis his sparkling run apparently ran out in the deciding match against Sequioco, allowing the Hafa Adai security guard to come away with the weekly pool title.

He won a handsome trophy and the \$40 top prize for his efforts.

Celis settled for the \$25 runner-up purse, while Mariano took home the \$15 third place

prize. All three men also got souvenir caps from Pacific Trading Co.

Other billiard players that graced the Tuesday 8-ball competition were Gary Ridley, Lars and Palacios.

The Round Two 8-Ball Tournament is held every Tuesday starting at 8pm and has an entry fee of \$10.

Round Two also regularly hosts two other pool tournaments through the course

of the week. Its winner-take-all pool tournament is held every Sunday starting at 1pm and costs \$5 to join.

On Thursdays, Round Two holds the exciting Miller Lite Invitational 8-Ball Tournament starting at 8pm. Entry fee is \$15 on regular days but goes up to \$25 every last Thursday of the month.

For more information on Round Two's tournaments, please contact Don Pangelinan at 234-6930.

ROCBALL

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WATTS, wrote that that the program, which features shows on different sports from around the world, would like to attain footage, pictures, and information of Rocball for airing.

Feger also confirmed that he will send a couple of videotapes, information about the history of the sport, rules, and several articles and news clippings to Chimenti.

Eurosport reaches over 95 million homes in 54 countries.

Also being attracted to the sport is Brian Meredith, an operation manager for CrackerJax, a sports-theme

amusement park in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Meredith stated in his letter to Feger that he is currently searching for ways to make their three volleyball courts useful, and was intrigued after coming across some information about Rocball while browsing through the Internet.

Meredith added that he is trying to modify the courts to Rocball standards and is working towards starting a Rocball league.

"I can't believe that nobody in America plays this sport," Meredith stated.

Last year, Feger scheduled a special match featuring 2001 and 2002 champions DX and Jammers, which was taped and

sent to the Fox Sports Show "You Gotta See This." Fox Sports Show's Associate Producer Eric Hopkins expressed his interest in the sport. Camera crews were set up at courtside and on the roof of the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

He also sent a couple of videotapes, written information, and graphics to the Rocball Federation of India.

In related news, the World Organized Rocball Interscholastic and Community League's 2004 season is set to get underway on January 12.

Teams will engage in several practice rounds prior to seeing battle in the preliminary rounds, which is expected to kick off just

a couple of weeks later.

All interested players are encouraged to begin organizing squads for the league, which unlike other sporting events, doesn't require an entrance fee.

All matches will be played at the Marianas High School Green Court. Should Mother Nature interrupt with wet showers, matches will be played at the school's gym.

Feger began organizing and writing about the sport while in Japan in 1979. After two years of experimenting, the sport finally progressed into a tournament in 1983.

For more information, please contact Feger at 664-3810 or 288-8722.

LOVE

From Page 28

on the next two holes, then easily reached the par-5 11th with a 5-iron to set up his fourth straight birdie.

"I had my pompoms out, cheering him on," Woods said. "I told him on the 10th tee I was two ahead. He said, 'How's that?' I told him I was getting a stroke a hole."

Love smiled when asked about Woods' comments.

"I didn't want to stick my hand in the cage and ask him if he wanted strokes," Love said.

Indeed, Love put seven shots between him and Woods over the first nine holes, and it left himself in great position to become the

first repeat winner of the Target World Challenge since Woods created it five years ago.

Love won in 2000 with a 64 in the final round.

It would be a great way to end his best season on tour. Love won four times, and no victory bigger than his final-round 64 at The Players Championship on a cold, windy day at Sawgrass.

While this tournament only counts in the bank - \$1.2 million of the \$5 million purse going to the winner - a victory would be meaningful coming against a 16-man field of high-ranked players and three of the four major champions.

Plus, Love has played the last two rounds with Woods, a

situation that in the past hasn't allowed him to play his best.

Love has worked all year to worry about only his own game. In fact, he was having dinner with friends Friday night when they told him to beat Woods.

"K.J. is the guy to beat right now," Love said. "People don't see it the way we do. You've got to beat the golf course."

Harrington missed a 3-foot par putt on the final hole for a 70 and was in third place at 211, six shots behind. Masters champion Mike Weir, who opened with a 75, had a 3-under 69 and was at 212.

Choi is making his first appearance in the final event of the year, and would like nothing

better to end his season with a victory - even though it doesn't count in the record books and won't get him back to Kapalua.

"It would be even better ... because of the field," Choi said.

Catching up to Love could require a great round, especially the way Love is playing. The calm, warmer conditions allowed the ball to travel farther and the power hitters to play more aggressively.

Love's only bogey came on a three-putt from 15 feet, when his eyes saw only the hole and not the speed of the putt; he ran it 8 feet by and missed the par putt.

"Other than that, I felt like I could make birdie on every hole," Love said. "And I almost did."



Trail Blazers defeat the Lakers, 112-108

Damon Stoudamire hit two 3-pointers in the final minutes and the Portland Trail Blazers handed the Los Angeles Lakers their second loss in two nights with a 112-108 victory Saturday night.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Sequioco tops Tuesday pool

Boyet Sequioco put together another perfect run last Tuesday to win the Round Two 8-Ball Fun Tournament that evening at the pioneering sports bar.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

It's Cabalen against Visminda

RP Construction dethrones SIP, 121-103

By MARK RABAGO
REPORTER

Cabalen-RP Construction reaffirmed their mastery over SIP - Verizo on dethroning the three-time defending champion with a 121-103 rout Sunday night that secured them a finals ticket opposite Visminda-Country House in the 2003 UFO Miller Lite Cup championship.

The Transamerica-backed squad atoned for a shaky start, which had them trail SIP-Verizon 27-24 after the opening quarter, with a terrific second quarter.

Big man Ronald Delos Reyes, the goat in Cabalen's 103-108 loss to Visminda last week, came back strong and hit a couple of triples in the second stanza to start the fireworks for Cabalen.

Youthful center Ryan Mendoza, meanwhile, complemented Delos Reyes' sharpshooting ways by scoring 12 points from point blank range also in the second quarter.

The combination of efficient outside shooting and strong inside play translated to a 59-50 halftime advantage for Cabalen.

SIP-Verizon, whose players



came in late due to a mix-up in scheduling, continued to take on water and struggled mightily in the second half.

Cabalen's aggressive game had their opponents on the defensive during the early part of the third period. Another 3-pointer by Delos Reyes at the 8:03 mark of the quarter gave Cabalen its biggest lead so far at 68-54.

A few plays later, Mendoza struck again on the inside to pad their edge further at 72-54 with 6:47 remaining in the period.

Following a putback by Delos Reyes on a miss free throw off a 3-point opportunity by Mendoza, the score stood at 89-68 with less than two minutes left in the third.

But SIP-Verizon was far from gone and retaliated with an 11-3 burst to close the quarter that cut their deficit to 90-79.

Cabalen's Mendoza also chipped in to SIP-Verizon's cause, inadvertently making a layup on SIP-Verizon's basket after an inbound play following a timeout with 31 ticks to go.

The big end-game rally, however, didn't materialize for SIP-Verizon as Cabalen

thwarted all attempts at an uprising and maintained their healthy lead all throughout the final quarter.

There were still a lot of scary moments though. With Cabalen up 96-84, SIP-Verizon forward Gary Rapanut missed a routine layup that could've cut the lead to 10 points.

At the 5:31 mark of the game Edsel Mendoza missed two tries from the free throw line and in the succeeding SIP-

Verizon offensive, newly arrived Leo Factor missed the bonus free throw on a 3-point play that could've slashed Cabalen's lead again to 10 points.

With SIP-Verizon still within striking distance swingman Junar Guiab was hit with his fifth personal foul with 4:05 to go. Shortly after Factor followed him to the showers.

Playing-coach Rick Alegre's coast-to-coast layup made it 108-97 with 2:52 left in the game but that appeared to be SIP-Verizon's last gasp as Cabalen went on a 9-2 tear highlighted by an off-balanced 3-point play

by Randy Arnedo that, for all intents and purpose, sealed the game at 117-99 with 1:33 remaining.

Mendoza earned Miller Lite MVP of the Game honors after scoring

35 points, which was the same output submitted by Delos Reyes. Veterans Alex Ocampo, Jun Alipio added 13 and 12 points, respectively.

Rick Alegre topscored for SIP-Verizon with 19 points. Edsel Mendoza chipped in 16 points and Guiab 14 before See IT'S CABALEN on Page 27



Rocball gains interest yet again

By SHAN SEMAN
REPORTER



Saipan's very own sport, Rocball, is steadily gaining more interest from the outside world.

This was learned late last week after founder and organizer James Feger announced that he has received e-mails from a couple organizations, Eurosport TV and a sports amusement park in Arizona, interested in gaining more information about the sport.

Eurosport, the most widely available sports channel in Europe, has made contact with Feger and has shown interest in learning more about the sport for future broadcasting.

In an e-mail letter to Feger, Pablo Chimienti of Eurosport's weekly program See ROCBALL on Page 27

Love pulls away from Tiger at Sherwood

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP GOLF WRITER

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. (AP) — Davis Love III made four straight birdies to leave Tiger Woods in the dust and pull away from a world-class field Saturday, finishing with a 9-under 63 to build a three-shot lead in the Target World Challenge.

Despite a bogey on the par-3 17th, Love tied the tournament record set last year by Padraig Harrington in the third round. Harrington built a record six-shot lead and hung on to win against Woods.

Love, at 11-under 205, only had a three-shot margin over K.J. Choi (65), although he won't have to worry about Woods.

As most of the leaders were posting birdies on a sunny, benign afternoon at Sherwood, the tournament host gave up ground with a three-putt bogey



AP
Tiger Woods reacts to his approach shot on the 18th hole during the third round of the Target World Challenge, Saturday, Dec. 13, 2003, in Thousand Oaks, Calif.

on No. 3 and then hit his tee shot into the water for a bogey on the next hole.

Woods lost all hope on the final hole, hitting off the pine

straw and coming up well short, into the water, and he had to make a 15-footer for bogey. He had a 72 and was nine shots back at 214.

Meanwhile, Love played some of his best golf since early in the year.

"I was confident all day," Love said. "I'm getting more and more comfortable playing with Tiger and around the lead."

Love was tied with Choi and Justin Leonard when his 4-iron on the difficult par-3 8th climbed just enough to hop into the fringe and stop about 6 feet above the hole for one of only two birdies in the round.

Love holed putts of 20 feet and 15 feet for birdies

See LOVE on Page 27